

IRAN NEWS

A Man Who Lost His 11-Year Old Daughter in the TWA Flt. 800 on July 17 Talks to Reporters at Kennedy Airport
Page 15

Militiamen Arrest a Demonstrator, July 20, Who Accused Russia of Genocide in Chechnya. Russian Forces Have Launched Another Mass Attack on the Chechens
Page 1

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Monday July 22, 1996, Mordad 1, 1375, Rabi-ul Avval 5, 1417



James Program

James Program
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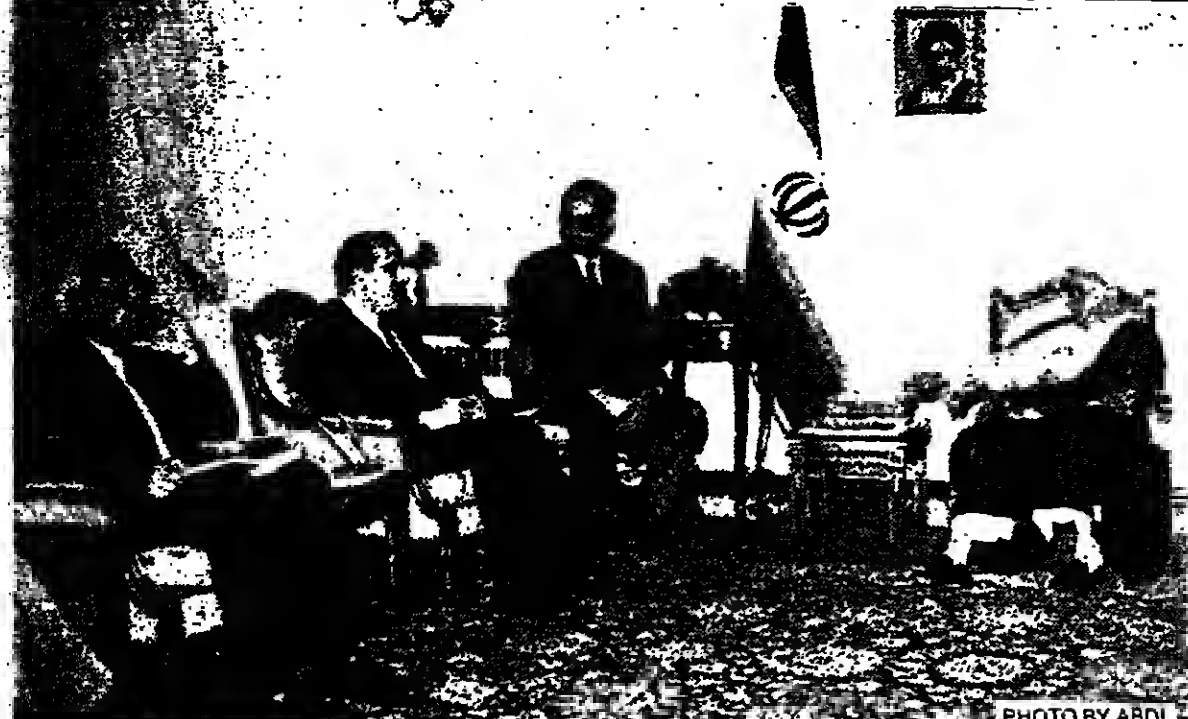


PHOTO BY ABDI

President Stresses Cooperation in C. Asia

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday received Georgian minister of foreign affairs who was carrying a message from the Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze. Conveying the best wishes and greetings of his country's president Zurab Kervali Shvili said: "Georgia attaches great significance to expansion of its ties with Iran and persistently follows up the actual implementation of the agreements already reached between the two nations." The Georgian FM said top on the agenda of his visit are issues relating to transportation projects and the purchase of Iranian gas and electricity, as well as the expansion of bilateral and multilateral regional ties. He expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his visit. He further called on Iran to See Page 13

Fierce Russian Offensive Continues Against Chechen Forces in Shatoi

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - Russian warplanes resumed their bombardment of rebel positions around the southern village of Shatoi yesterday for a second consecutive day, the Interfax agency reported. Both sides were claiming to have inflicted heavy losses, though casualty figures vary wildly according to sources. However, there is no doubt about the intensity of the Russian airborne and artillery offensive on this upland rebel stronghold of the breakaway Caucasus Republic. A spokesman for the separatist Chechen leadership, Movladi Udugov, told AFP by telephone that at least one Russian helicopter and plane had been destroyed by Saturday afternoon, together with a dozen armored vehicles, though this has not been confirmed by the Russians. Russia reported six of its soldiers dead, and put the number of Chechen fatalities at 60, while Udugov said Chechen dead only numbered five and that some 150 Russians had been killed. It was impossible to independently verify either side's figures. Bad weather on Saturday slowed up the Russian offensive. See Page 13



MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Militiamen arrest a demonstrator who accused Moscow authorities of a genocide in Chechnya, July 20 in Moscow. Russian planes, artillery and infantry on Saturday launched a massive attack in the mountainous region near the village of Shatoi to destroy a rebel base. (AFP Photo)

Netanyahu Will Meet Arafat If It Serves Israeli Interests

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - One of Benjamin Netanyahu's top aides said that the Israeli Prime Minister 'hates' Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and would meet him only in certain circumstances, a report from Cairo said. Israel's new Ambassador to the United States Eliahu ben Elissar in an interview with the Egyptian daily Al-Hayat said, "He (Netanyahu) hates Arafat, but realizes he must deal with reality." "We are in the presence of a man who hates Arafat and doesn't consider him worthy to sit at the negotiating table," Elissar said referring to Netanyahu's views about the Palestinian leader. Netanyahu visited Washington two weeks ago and commenting on the same subject said, "If I deem it necessary for peace or for the interest of Israel to meet Arafat, I would not rule it out." Observers in Tehran were not shocked or surprised by the revelations made about a narrow-minded and extremist person who is a legal inheritor of the peace accord signed by his predecessor. Netanyahu's predecessor, Shimon Peres, shook hands, hugged and signed a peace accord with Arafat. Now the new prime minister says he hates Arafat and will not make peace with him.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Who is to blame?
Jordan, Syria and Palestinians were involved in the U.S.-brokered peace process.



ARAFAT

Syria blamed Arafat and Jordan for the current hurdles in the way of the peace process. Damascus said both Jordan and Arafat



NETANYAHU

had made a unilateral peace with Israel regardless of the common Arab position. Egypt was the first Arab country which signed a peace accord with Israel in 1979 which resulted a break in its diplomatic ties with most of the Arab states. In 1995, Qatar and Oman broke away from their other allies in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and agreed to economic ties with Israel. "All Arab rulers claim that See Page 13

Pakistan Paralyzed as Opposition Protest

KARACHI, PAKISTAN (AFP) - Strikes called by the opposition parties and transport operators to protest against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's policies crippled life across Pakistan yesterday, witnesses said. An opposition-sponsored shutdown hit most cities in Sindh, the southern home province of Bhutto, who left earlier on an official visit to South Korea. Nine parties called the stoppage as part of a campaign to force Bhutto to resign and hold snap elections under a caretaker administration, a demand rejected by the prime minister as an insult to the people's mandate. Bhutto, who said elections will take place as scheduled in 1998, is accused by the opposition of corruption, incompetence and economic mismanagement. Throughout yesterday, which was a normal working day in Pakistan, banks, markets and shops were closed in the provincial capital Karachi, the country's industrial and commercial center. Most parts of the city looked deserted with little traffic on the roads, with paramilitary rangers and police guarding key buildings. Karachi police said a police- See Page 13

Mid-Term Elections Postponed

BY M. SERJOOIE
TEHRAN - The mid-term elections, previously scheduled for the month of Azar (November 21-December 20, 1996), will be postponed at least until early 1997 (possibly February or March), Majlis deputy from Tehran told IRAN NEWS here yesterday. Ali Movahed Savoji said the postponement was caused by incoordination between the Cabinet and the Council of Guardians. Savoji represented the parliament in Interior Ministry's 'Article 10 Commission' during all previous four terms of the Majlis, supervising and monitoring the Ministry's regulation of political parties. "Due to mismanagement by some officials at certain constituencies in which elections were declared null and void, the Council of Guardians has ruled for their ouster, since sound elections would not be feasible so long as they remain in office", he remarked. See Page 13



SAVOJI

poned at least until early 1997 (possibly February or March), Majlis deputy from Tehran told IRAN NEWS here yesterday. Ali Movahed Savoji said the postponement was caused by incoordination between the Cabinet and the Council of Guardians. Savoji represented the parliament in Interior Ministry's 'Article 10 Commission' during all previous four terms of the Majlis, supervising and monitoring the Ministry's regulation of political parties. "Due to mismanagement by some officials at certain constituencies in which elections were declared null and void, the Council of Guardians has ruled for their

SUMMARY
ایران نیوز
روزنامه ایران
روزنامه ایران
روزنامه ایران

Perpetuating Iran's Historical Identity
Page 10



Friday Prayers in China
Page 14



Dream Team in Action
Page 16

IRAN NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Let the Expatriates Share in the Development Projects

Encouraging expatriate Iranians to invest in development projects in the country is one of the most effective means of raising foreign exchange needed in the implementation of the economic projects. Unfortunately, this exceedingly useful source of financing has been mostly ignored in discussions on the ways of attracting capital from outside the country.

Presently over two million Iranians are living abroad - mostly in industrialized countries - and the majority of them are earning good incomes. Assuming that the Iranian expatriates are earning an average annual income of \$30,000, which is the annual per capita income in most of the industrialized countries, the total annual income of the Iranian expatriates will amount to about \$60 billion. And if they were to devote only 10 percent of their income to development projects in the country, a considerable share of the foreign exchange requirement of the country will thus be provided.

Local investment by Iranian expatriates will have several advantages. The need for foreign sources of investment will be greatly reduced; moreover, the use of capital belonging to Iranians will have a very beneficial effect as far as the public opinion in Iran is concerned because, despite the fact that funds will come from abroad, the investors are Iranian nationals. And it will have a great effect in offsetting negative propaganda by the foreign media.

It should also be noted that if the expatriate Iranians could be induced to allocate also part of their fixed assets to the domestic development projects, the amount that could be raised from this single source will be greatly increased. Furthermore, foreign investors could only be induced to invest in the country for economic gains, whereas the Iranian expatriates will not just be looking for profit, but will also be motivated by patriotic feelings.

It is of course true that a small fraction of the Iranians who are now living abroad, are related to the counter-revolutionary groups whose return to the country could not be tolerated under any circumstances. But apart from these groups, who account for only about 2 or 3 percent of the Iranian expatriates, there are a great number of Iranians who have been educated abroad and possess high degree of technical and managerial expertise. Thus, by attracting their capital we will not only be taking advantage of their financial resources, we will also be able to benefit from their expert knowledge and experience.

We believe the Iranian expatriates are as patriotic and as much anxious to take part in the development projects in their country as their compatriots at home. We are therefore facing the great responsibility of creating circumstances that will encourage our compatriots living abroad to come forward in person or through their capital and share the enormous task of creating a better future for the coming generations.

This is a highly urgent step which has to be taken without any unnecessary procrastination. Time is running out. The present generation of Iranian expatriates still feel a great bond of attachment to their motherland, whereas

See Page 13

PRESIDENT: People Should Be Informed of Realities



PHOTO BY ABDI
IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - More public awareness about the Islamic system's activities and advancements will make the people more cheerful and hopeful of the bright future that is awaiting them, said President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here yesterday.

President Rafsanjani who was addressing the members of the Government Week Headquarters, added that an understanding of the extent of reconstruction has turned this drive into a sacred cul-

tural movement among the people and has neutralized negative judgments and evil propaganda.

"To describe and propagate the giant services rendered by the Islamic government is not a personal boast or personal praise, but is to defend the strength of the Islamic Republic and the novel Islamic opinions, against illogical and hostile propaganda lodged by the enemies," the President added.

He said the present amount of publicity in the country is not at a satisfactory level, but instead with

appropriate methods of publicity the nation's achievements and activities would better introduce the system abroad and would, in turn, influence many important preconceived notions formed about Iran.

"The increased public trust in the integrity of the government and their tolerance of the reconstruction phase shortcomings, is a demonstration of the people's faith in the country, which aims to eradicate depravity, enhancement of production, and self-sufficiency," the President noted.

Besharati Praises Law Enforcement Dedication

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Interior Minister Ali-mohammad Besharati said here yesterday that the law enforcement in Iran has done an outstanding job nationwide over the past year.

Besharati addressing law enforcement commanders and sub-commanders, in metropolitan Tehran, in a commemorative ceremony for the Law Enforcement Week, said protectors of peace were in fact the custodians of the achievements and values of the Islamic Revolution.

Prior to his appearance before the group, according to IRNA reports, the Commander of the Law Enforcement General Staff, briefed him on the status of law enforcement in Iran. The prime duty of the law enforcement is to fight contraband trafficking and dealings and to fight publicly or privately-committed vices with social implications. He was also hopeful that a budget increase for the law enforcement department would improve their overall performance, at the national level.

Habibi Receives DPRK & Kyrgyz Ambassadors



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Marking the end of the North Korean Ambassador, Choi Yong Ro's mission in Iran, First Vice-President, Hassan Habibi met with him on Saturday to discuss issues of mutual interest.

The North Korean ambassador acknowledged Iran's strong, steady, and consistent economic growth and rich resources, and viewed Iranians as valiant and good people. He further noted that Iran has an exceptional strategic status in the region and brought attention to the special relation that existed between the two nations.

In response Habibi said officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have praised the struggles of the North Korean people, according to IRNA reports.

The outgoing North Korean ambassador voiced his displeasure with the U.S. unilateral sanctions against Iran and said top authorities in Korea are in favor of pursuing bilateral relations with Iran, and strongly support Iran's anti-imperialistic stand.

Yong Ro went on to say that Korea was particularly interested in expanding relations with Iran in the economic, cultural, political and technical fields, calling for higher rate of delegations exchange.

Habibi, described the potential for bilateral cooperations to be mutually beneficial. In reference to the given resources, installa-

tions and numerous industries in Iran and North Korea, the two countries can embark on joint ventures, and use the two countries' expertise at an optimum level.

The First Vice-President, stated that in addition to political expansion, the economic and technical relations must also be expanded. He proposed that North Korea and Iran create a common economic market in the region, to counter the existing U.S. policies. In another development, at the meeting with Habibi the Kyrgyz Ambassador to Tehran Husseinov, presented an invitation of his country's Prime Minister, Apas Jumagulov for the First Vice-President.

Husseinov underscored the interests of the officials of his country in the expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran within the framework of economic commission, hoping that the First Vice-President's official visit to Kyrgyzstan would further pave

the ground for the promotion of relations between the two neighboring nations, according to IRNA.

Iran's First Vice-President accepted Jumagulov's official invitation and expressed hope to pay an official visit in the near future.

Habibi stressed the need for a follow-up and the execution of the terms of accord reached at Iran-Kyrgyz joint economic commission. The First Vice President pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran had trough of experience in the technical and industrial fields, adding that being familiar with these potentialities, the friendly regional countries, specifically Central Asian republics could reap benefit from the rich experiences, paving the way for the promotion of technical co-operation and trade relations.

Habibi finally stressed the need for cultural exchange between the two countries.

Massive Narcotics Convoy Busted in Eastern Iran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Mersad Headquarters' Commander, Brig. Gen. Ali Akbar Puriani, of the Law Enforcement Forces in Kerman yesterday, said that a drug gang trying to smuggle tons of narcotics into Iran on camel back had been busted over the past few days.

He said that they were traveling through Mirjaveh, southeastern Iran, IRNA reported from Kerman.

Puriani said that a number of the 30-member gang, without giving details, were killed in the skirmish while some of the others were arrested and handed over to judicial officials.

Six tons of drugs were hauled from the 60-camel caravan. It was also reported from Jiroft

that hundreds of kilograms of narcotics were destroyed yesterday.

The Head of the Local Islamic Revolution Court, Dad Khoda Salari, said the destroyed narcotics were part of those confiscated from 11 gangs in Jiroft and Kahnuj over the past eight months.

He added that about 1,600 kg. of the hauled amount, were given to the Ministry of Health for pharmaceutical use and the rest was burnt.

The judicial official stated that nine traffickers had been killed and 32 others arrested in the armed confrontations with dozens of weapons as well as 13 vehicles and motorcycles having been confiscated.

Pakistan Mediation



Velayati, Zimbabwe

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - The country in the region has been on extensive mission visiting Zimbabwe Minister, Nor M...
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Besharati
Praises
Law
Enforcement
Dedication

Pakistan Welcomes Iran's Mediation in Kashmir Issue

IRAN NEWS PARLIAMENTARY DESK

TEHRAN - To solve the disputes in Kashmir, Pakistan welcomes Iran's proposal to act as a mediator between New Delhi and Islamabad.

Talking to IRNA before his departure yesterday, the Speaker of the Pakistani National Assembly, Seyed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that "Islamabad is an arena for negotiations and peace talks, not for war."

Asked about Pakistan's views on the imposed economic sanctions, against the two Muslim countries of Iran and Libya, by the U.S., Gilani replied that Islamabad was strongly against these sanctions.

Gilani believed that in order to remove such sanctions and to resolve these disputes, bilateral talks should be held. This, he added, would be the most effective measure Muslim countries can adopt.

In regards to the ongoing developments in Afghanistan and the efforts being made by Iran to restore tranquillity in that country, Gilani said Pakistan is in full support of the peace and stability restoration process in Afghanistan.

He added, according to IRNA reports, that Pakistani officials did not support any particular group in Afghanistan.

On the subject of the relationship between Iran and Pakistan, Gilani commented, that progressively, a consolidated mutual friendship has developed.

He termed the outcome of his talks of expansion of Tehran-Islamabad ties with the Iranian officials as "fruitful".

Meanwhile, Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri said that major issues discussed with the Pakistani official included a follow-up of the interparliamentary body formation issue, by the Muslim countries, and the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) as well as an acceleration of the Irano-Pakistani parliamentary friendship group formation.

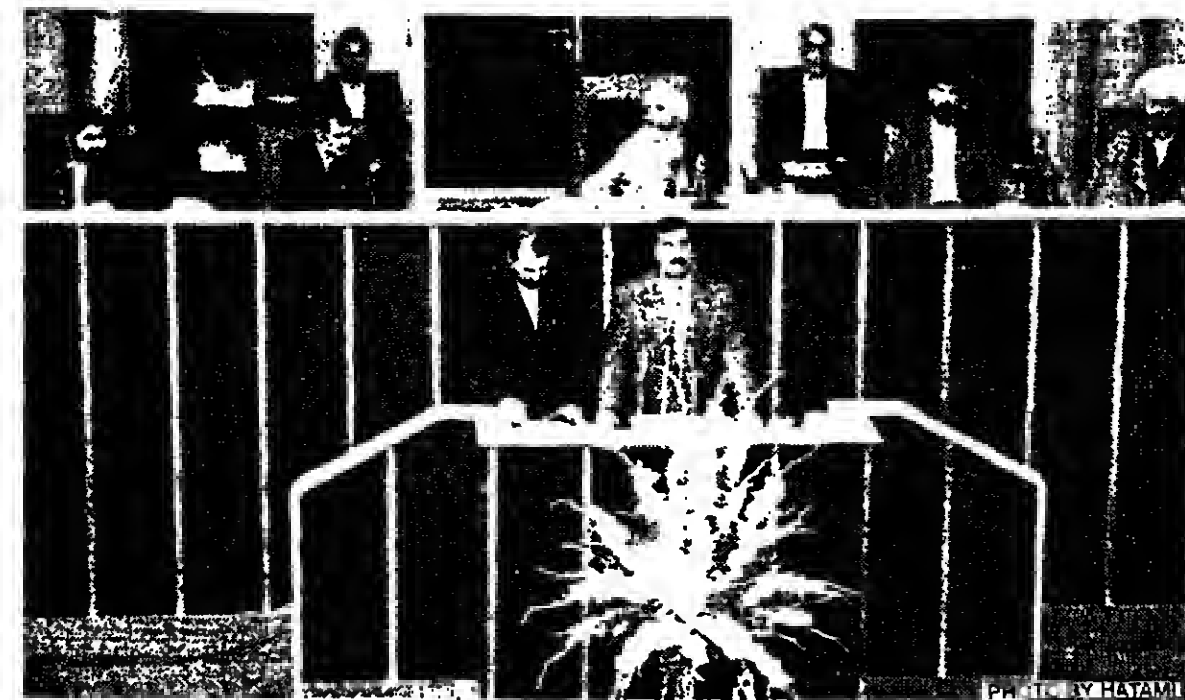


PHOTO BY HATAMI

mentary body formation issue, by the Muslim countries, and the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) as well as an acceleration of the Irano-Pakistani parliamentary friendship group formation.

Hojjatoleslam Nateq Nouri added that the formation of the

friendship groups and an interparliamentary body could strengthen the governments ability in dealing with executive issues.

Switching to the issue of Kashmir, Nateq-Nouri said that Iran is opposed to aggression towards Muslims and their rights, and supports the restoration of the Kash-

miri people, in a peaceful manner. The Speaker, according to IRNA, said that Iran had favorable ties with both India and Pakistan and was prepared to use this as a tool, in order to resolve the Kashmir dispute. Gilani arrived in Tehran on Wednesday, for an official five-day state visit.

Promotion of Tehran-Jakarta Relations Discussed

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador in Indonesia, Mohsen Nabavi, Saturday met in Jakarta with Indonesian Minister of Tourism, Posts and Telecommunications, Joop Ave, reviewing bilateral promotion of ties.

Nabavi stated that expansion of cooperation as well as relations in tourism and communications would be a major step taken in the expansion of ties between the two Muslim nations. This, he added,

in turn would solidify political, economic and cultural relations.

Ave termed the recent PTT ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference, held in Tehran, as being successful. He further stressed that Iran is an ancient country with a rich Islamic culture.

He further reiterated that, contrary to foreign media propaganda, Iranian women play crucial roles in their country's social activities.

Iran Ambassador Meets Madagascar's FM

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's extraordinary and plenipotentiary Ambassador to Madagascar Ali Amouyi submitted a copy of his credentials to Madagascar Foreign Minister Jacques Sylla in Antananarivo yesterday.

Sylla expressed hope that relations between his country and Iran would expand and the two countries would cooperate for better and more cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN
SURA 67, THE KINGDOM (AL-MULK)
In the Name of God
The Beneficent, the Merciful

17. Or, are you confident again,
That He, who is in heaven,
Shall not against you send
A hurried hurricane?
Then you shall comprehend
How is My warning!

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PRAYER TIMES	
Noon (Zohr)	13:11
Evening (Maghreb)	20:38
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:13
Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:05

Iran Protests Terrorists Allegations

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Iranian Embassy in London, protested the article written in the Times for having suggested Iran's involvement in the TWA airline crash, Wednesday night, resulting in the death of 230 passengers and crew members.

In a telephone conversation with IRNA here, the Iranian Em-

bassy said it had protested the "unfounded suggestion".

In a written letter to the Times newspaper, the Embassy commented on the fact that reputable journalists, should not cite unreliable sources, identified as "confirmed terrorists", and claimed these allegations to be unfounded and untrue, according to IRNA.

TOYKAN:

Mutual Resolutions Exist to Enhance Tehran-Ankara Ties

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Toykan mentioned that useful negotiations were made between the visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific Affairs, Alaeddin Boroujerdi and Turkish top officials, in Ankara on Saturday.

Toykan claimed that the outcome of the negotiations were favorable and indicated that the two nations have developed resolutions for closer relations.

It has been agreed that the two countries would cooperate in all areas, including trade and export of Iranian gas to Turkey.

The Turkish official indicated that the issue of the border incident has been settled, IRNA continued to report.

He added that the Turkish Minister of the Interior Mehmet Akar was expected to pay a visit to Tehran soon in order to discuss border security arrangement with his Iranian counterpart Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Boroujerdi left Ankara for Istanbul and was expected to return to Tehran, yesterday.



Photo by Hatami

Velayati, Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Meet

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran is an important country in the region and the mutual ties should be expanded based on existing commonalities, said the visiting Zimbabwean Foreign Minister, Stan Mudenge here yesterday.

Mudenge who arrived here yesterday, made the remark in his first round of talks with his Iranian counterpart Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati.

He also stressed the strengthening of mutual relations between

Iran and Zimbabwe at regional and international levels.

The Zimbabwean official here to attend the inauguration of the first joint Iran-Zimbabwe commission, outlined the latest developments in his country and in southern Africa.

He said exchange of political and economic delegations can boost bilateral relations.

Velayati also underlined cooperation between the two countries at international organizations and called for improvement of mutual

relations.

The Zimbabwean minister, who is heading a high-level politico-economic delegation, was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Velayati.

Mudenge is to submit a message from Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to his Iranian counterpart, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Zimbabwean official during his three-day stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran will meet a number of Iranian officials.

arcotics Convoy
in Eastern Iran

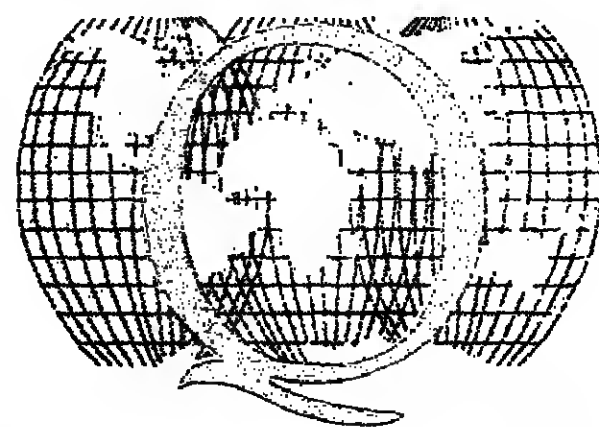
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in the scene of
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Resolving Issues Now Will Guarantee the Future of OPEC

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - If OPEC can solve the challenges currently facing it - including those of Iraq's return to the market and quota in discipline - then the organization's future will be assured, argues the Iranian Minister of Petroleum, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, in this exclusive interview given to Touss Sepehr, OPEC Editor, member countries.

Question: World oil demand has grown by more than two million barrels per day in the last two years but most of that (1.7m bpd) has been grabbed by producers outside OPEC. What can OPEC do to reverse this trend?

Answer: In my opinion, non-OPEC countries have been notably successful in lowering their (production) costs. This has resulted in their achieving very high revenues in the past years, due to their use of (the latest) techniques. Consequently, the ground has been prepared for investments in non-OPEC producer countries, enabling them to absorb the increasing demand.

Of course, since OPEC is known as the residual supplier in the world, it has made sacrifices that have benefited non-OPEC producers. I characterize this attitude on the part of the organization as a sacrifice because it is OPEC's right to meet the new demand, as it has the additional production capacity.

There is, however, a limit to this forbearance. OPEC has done a great deal and now it is time to send the non-OPEC producers a message and begin to negotiate with them. OPEC must make clear that there is a limit to its tolerance. This current world trend should not continue.

Question: Is there a possibility of extending OPEC membership by focusing on the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union?

Answer: Until OPEC has reached an international status and level of (disciplined) seriousness commensurate with its actual potential, I do not believe the absorption of new members would be of any value.

OPEC has to achieve a genuine global standing and no factors outside the organization can assist in this connection. OPEC members themselves play the most crucial role here. They should respect their own organization, its resolutions and assume an effective international posture in the oil market.

If OPEC seriously followed up these questions, we would witness other countries canvassing us for membership, since their interests would lie in being in the organization. OPEC, then, should engage in its own house-cleaning process. This would allow others to approach the idea of membership positively.

Question: Is there any merit in continuing a producer/consumer dialogue?

Answer: The underlying concept of this dialogue is very good. Unfortunately, it has got on the wrong track in practice and not materialized; it simply reflects the views and opinions of each country involved.

The dialogue has not produced the results expected from it, which were to allow producers and consumers to meet and reach mutually agreed decisions. To date, every

country is pressing its own agenda and viewpoints and this has hampered any real progress.

I believe that common ground should be established, culminating in decisions by consensus. This is the only avenue through which the dialogue process can be successful.

Question: Do you think there can be a co-ordinated OPEC position regarding the environment issue or would you prefer that this be limited to individual member countries?

Answer: The environment question affects both the producers and the consumers. For example, Iran is one of the major oil producers and we have our own environmental problems. To illustrate our concern, we have even established an organization that operates under the direct supervision of the President. In recent years, increasing attention is being focused on this issue in our country.

One important point at the international level is to avoid coercion and confrontation, in favor of (a spirit of) working towards sustainable global environmental solutions. What is at stake is no less than the quality of life on the planet as we know it.

It is merely repeating the obvious to say this is of immense international significance. To date, however, attention has focused on how to find the guilty parties in the environmental equation, as opposed to looking for solutions.

Everyone is busy trying to impose the cost of solving the problem on others; attempting to find who will foot the bill rather than seriously searching for who might have the best solutions. We all should stop pointing the finger of blame at one another and instead, look for a common understanding, in order to achieve positive results.

Question: Some observers are skeptical about OPEC's long term prospects, its basic cohesiveness and the ability of the member states to abide by organizational decisions. What are your views on this?

Answer: The future of OPEC hinges on rectifying the current situation. If we solve the problems now facing us, such as Iraq (re-entering the oil market), member countries' adherence to group consensus and quota violations, the future of OPEC will be guaranteed.

All these issues are interconnected. If we do not get over these present obstacles, we will not get over future burdens. Of course, recently we have begun to discuss and negotiate OPEC's future. At the experts' level, there has been a great deal of time and effort put into developing improved strategies for OPEC. Hopefully, we will have a very important report in this connection for the June ministerial meeting. If we resolve our internal problems now, the future will take care of itself.

Question: How do you see Iraq's return to the market?

Answer: I welcome Iraq's return because this would solve one of OPEC's main problems. We need to resolve this issue very quickly. Iraq is one of the founding members of the organization and its return would solve one of OPEC's main problems.

Question: What does your experience as the top energy official

of a major oil producing country and the longest-serving OPEC Minister, tell you about the future of the organization?

Answer: OPEC is one of the most important organizations in the world with respect to the international economy. It has the potential for making an even greater impact but, unfortunately, we are

pockets of the consuming countries, not the producer. This is an unrealistic situation. The method through which prices are arrived at presently could lead to a major energy crisis.

Compared to other sources of energy, it is obvious that oil and gas are irreplaceable for decades to come. As a result, a durable



If OPEC can solve the challenges currently facing it, then the organization's future can be assured

preoccupied with internal problems. Consequently, OPEC's influence is commensurately reduced.

This is seen most clearly in the way oil prices are effectively set. The role of the paper market (energy futures) carries more weight, in this context, than either the producer or consumer countries.

Then too, consuming countries make a large profit margin on a barrel of oil than do producers. Oil sold at \$18 a barrel will be resold by the consuming countries in the range of \$60-\$70/b. The real value of crude oil is going into the

producer-consumer paradigm must be established in order to guarantee supply and demand.

This should be linked to and balanced against the cost of production and the rates of investment. Several other parameters must be factored in to arrive at an equitable and sustainable, as well as a more stable petroleum market.

Question: There has been a major restructuring within your Ministry. How do you evaluate the overall performance of your Ministry as a result of these changes?

Answer: The Iranian Petro-

Construction of 9 Dams Underway

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - Nine dams will be completed and operational in the southern Iranian province of Fars by the Second Five-year Economic Development Plan (1995-1999).

Managing-director of Fars, Boushehr, Kohkiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad regional water organization, Khalil Rezaei, yesterday said 7 billion cubic meters of water is wasted annually and the new dams are meant to prevent this wastage. The dams, including Kowsar, Sibouyeh, Qir, Mirza-ye Shirazi, Reis Ali Delvari, Firouzabad, Shah Qasem, Izadkhan and Molla Sadra, are expected to take a cost of 650 billion rials for construction cost.

The implementation plan for the construction of six of the dams, including Salman Farsi, Mirza-ye Shirazi, Sibouyeh, Firouzabad, Izadkhan and Molla Sadra, was launched last year (March 21, 1995 - March 19, 1996).

When completed, the six dams will save three billion cubic meters of water, which in turn will provide water for 130,000 hectares of

regional farmland irrigation.

According to Rezaei, in addition to farmland irrigation, the six dams will produce 120 megawatts of electricity annually, IRNA reports.

Sibouyeh Dam, located at Tang Bolaghi, 80 kilometers northeast of Shiraz, is the most significant of the projects.

The 60 meter high dam, which has a reservoir capacity of 200 million cubic meters, is capable of supporting 16,000 hectares of arable land.

Meanwhile, the 130-meter high Qir Dam, which has a reservoir capacity of about 1.4 billion cubic meters, is located on Qara-Agha river in Tang Karzin, 180 kms south of Shiraz and 20 kms from Qir town.

The dams would be instrumental in supplying regional inhabitants with 43 million cubic meters of potable water and preserving 352 million cubic meters for farming.

Besides providing water for 17,000 hectares of farmlands at Dashtkavar and Khafir regions,

leum Ministry has divided its activities into two major areas - upstream and downstream. We have four major companies dealing with oil, gas, and petrochemicals, as well as refining, distribution and transportation.

These changes were implemented three years ago. The net result has been markedly improved efficiency. We also have plans for implementing privatization measures within the oil industry.

Our upstream activities - mainly exploration and production of oil - are handled by the National Iranian Oil Company. Other functions, particularly those related to services, will gradually be turned over to the private sector.

Iran has been quite successful in the field of petrochemicals. Our operations are efficient and compare favorably with international norms. Profitability is also high, as we have managed to maintain our production costs at very low levels.

Our gas sector is young but great strides have been made in this area. Currently 270 Iranian towns and cities are benefiting from the domestic gas distribution network. Annual gas production is some 70 billion cubic meters. Half of this is being injected into the oil reservoirs and the remainder is for local consumption. With gas replacing some of our fuel needs and with the increase in the price of other fuel producers, we have

been successful in limiting our consumption of fuel products. The last Iranian year saw a cut in consumption levels of some 100,000 bpd.

Another important policy of the National Iranian Gas Company is exports. It has signed substantial contracts with our neighboring countries - Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Now we are talking with Pakistan. The first priority is to have agreements with neighbors, then we are going to develop the infrastructure to enable us to transfer gas to Europe and even the Far East.

Question: Has TOTAL been successful with the Sirri and South Pars fields? What is the status of the ten tenders offered for bidding in October?

Answer: TOTAL's Sirri contract is now in force. In fact, to some extent, it is actually ahead of schedule. Thus it is clear that real progress is being made regarding the Sirri reservoir.

With respect to the South Pars field, we have received a number of proposals and these are under review. Contractors are still submitting bids.

As for the other projects, we already have a fixed timetable according to which preparatory work is moving ahead. In general terms, we have as variety as is the trend of development of these plans. Rather, on the contrary, we are quite confident as to the trend of these activities.

Iran, Brazil to Cooperate in Agricultural Research

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran and Brazil have agreed to cooperate in agricultural research as well as exchange of data and know-how in agricultural sector of the two countries.

The agreement was finalized at a meeting Friday between the Iranian Ambassador to Brazil, Taherian Mobarakeh and the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture, Supplies and Land Reform, Arlindo Portinho.

The Brazilian minister welcomed an invitation to visit Iran and expressed hope that the exchange of agricultural products between Brazil and the Islamic Republic would be increased.

Saturday's Trading at TSE

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A total of 353,908 shares, worth over 2,006 million rials, were traded in 472 turns for 355 applicants here at Tehran Stock Exchange on Saturday.

Shares of 22 companies increased, while those of 15 others suffered decline.

General index price of shares for Saturday reached over 2,022.03 points, showing a drop of 4.38 points compared with Wednesday.

Three MoUs Signed by Iran, Uzbekistan

SARI (IRNA) - Three economic memoranda of understanding were signed between Tashkent and Tehran during the course of Iran's specialized exhibition held in the capital city of Uzbekistan, stated the governor general of this northern province here on Saturday.

According to Ali Asghar Geranmayehpour, the items of agreement in the memoranda of understanding (MoU) include activities of the Construction Jihad,

bilateral agriculture cooperation between Uzbek and Iranian experts in the field, and export of ore to this Central Asian country.

He finally added that 81 Iranian exporters, mainly from the Mazandaran province had put their products ranging from building materials, tile and electrical appliances to carpet, furniture and foodstuff on display at the specialized fair.

The exhibition will be open until July 25.

Handwritten signature or stamp in Persian script.



IRAN

WORLD NEWS

Chiller Re-elected Head of True Path Party

ANKARA, TURKEY (AFP) - Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Chiller was re-elected head of the True Path Party (DYP), junior partner in the Islamic-conservative ruling coalition, during the party's Congress in Ankara yesterday.

Chiller won by a huge majority, collecting the votes of 1,095 of the 1,208 delegates present. Her only adversary, Mehmet Dulger, attracted just 79 votes.

His speech had been drowned out by boos and angry shouts from hecklers and he was only able to cast his vote under the protection of bodyguards.

A second opponent, Nurullah Aydin, who had earlier declared that he would stand for the party's presidency, withdrew his candidacy yesterday and accused the Congress of being under the thumb of Chiller.

Most Chiller opponents inside the party have been excluded from party ranks over the past months, or resigned before or after the government was voted into office by Parliament on July 8.

Chiller, who is also foreign minister in the Cabinet of Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, has presented her alliance with the latter's Welfare Party as

a bid to achieve "social reconciliation."

"We will not allow secularism to be abandoned for the sake of democracy nor democracy abandoned for the sake of secularism," she said before yesterday's vote.

The Welfare Party had spearheaded moves for parliamentary investigations into alleged corruption by Chiller in May and June but the coalition agreement then reportedly included secret provisions that Welfare would back Chiller before investigating committees and help her avoid appearing before a high court.

play a role in establishing peace and stability in Caucasasia.

Terming the cooperation grounds as very fertile Rafsanjani emphasized the vitality of multilateral ties among Central Asian nations and reiterated that they played an important role in bringing down costs, optimizing exploitation of resources, expediting commercial and economic exchanges and sharing views in regional and international issues.

He also expressed Iran's readiness to assist Georgia in its development endeavors.

man was shot and injured by snipers while groups of unidentified men burnt tires and hurled stones at vehicles in some areas of the city. Police said they had made about a dozen arrests.

The Karachi Stock Exchange opened but closed shortly afterwards because of lack of trading. Hundreds of industrial units and government offices were also badly affected because of the lack of manpower.

Cargo activity at Karachi Port remained sluggish, authorities said.

The strike was also observed in Sindh's other cities including Hyderabad, Sukkur, Nawabshah and Mirpurkhas, reports reaching here said.

The stoppage was called by nine opposition parties including the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League of former Premier Nawaz Sharif, the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement and the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami.

Sayed Qaim Ali Shah, provincial head of ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), condemned the action as a "conspiracy" to destabilize the government.

On Saturday, Jamaat-i-Islami leaders embarked on a 1,000-kilometer (625-mile) train journey across the country to mobilize support for their anti-government drive.

Jamaat, the country's most organized religious party, attempted a mass march on the nation's capital, Islamabad, on June 24, which was foiled by police, leading to clashes in which three party activists were killed.

The party has threatened an-

other mass march on Islamabad next month to press its demand that President Farooq Ahmed Leghari dismiss Bhutto and call fresh elections.

Meanwhile, road traffic also ground to a halt in the province of Punjab, with buses and goods vehicles not operating in protest at recent increases in transport-related levies, stranding commuters throughout the thickly populated province.

Transport workers have threatened to launch an indefinite stoppage on July 30 if the government does not withdraw the tax increases.

"The Council of Guardians enjoys the right to judge the efficiency and eligibility of the executive boards supervising the election process," Savaji, also a member of the Parliament's Presiding Board, noted.

The Law stipulates that by-elections be held five months after the Council of Guardians confirms the final results of the elections, he said, adding, "This deadline expired in Azar."

On why some of the said constituencies' supervisors were not removed from office, the MP said, "Some ministers seemingly maintain that the Council of Guardians should not meddle in the country's such executive affairs as removing a governor or a governor general."

The Council by and large will not permit elections to be held unless appropriate grounds are paved, he stressed and added that this has caused the existing stalemate.

The MP called on the President to intervene in the affair and said it is not politically right for the Majlis seats to remain vacant.

In the event that certain officials of the constituencies where elections were declared null and void are deemed ineligible by the ministers, those officials should be removed or substituted.

"But," he stressed, "continuation of the present situation is in no way to the interest of the country."

they attach greater importance to the interest of the Arab world, but act differently with their worst enemy - the Zionist regime," an expert on the Arab-Israeli affairs commented while talking to IRAN NEWS.

Israel's new Ambassador to U.S., Elissar, told Al-Hayat that the Palestinians will have to accept that Israel will never allow them an independent state and must settle for a 'modus vivendi' with Israel.

"There must be a sort of division where each side lives his own life and is responsible for his own affairs. Security in (the occupied territories) will be in Israeli hands with Palestinian sensibilities taken into account," the Israeli ambassador said.

"As a Likud member, I know this will not satisfy the Palestinians, but they have no choice," he said, adding that the "least that the Palestinians want is far more than Israel can give."

Elissar repeated Netanyahu's call for negotiations "without preconditions," with Syria, adding, "then we will see, perhaps we can arrive at a peace accord, perhaps not."

If a peace treaty "turns out to be impossible, then perhaps we could arrive at some sort of mo-

odus vivendi better than (the current situation). We don't want to make the current situation permanent."

He ruled out Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights saying Damascus must "pay the price for peace" and for losing the 1967 war in which the strategic plateau was occupied by the Zionist state.

"When a nation tries to wipe out another nation and loses the war, then it must pay the price. Syria tried repeatedly, failed and lost part of its land. We see no reason today to give the Golan to anyone," the Israeli diplomat told an Egyptian daily.

"I think the arrogant words uttered by a diplomat of the usurper regime are a blessing in disguise and it awoke the Arab nations and made them aware of the plots designed by the United States against them," a political analyst said.

"Such a stance of the Zionists and passive response of the United States will awaken the Arabs and the Palestinians who during the last 50 years have made unprecedented sacrifices for the liberation of their homeland," he said.

"The days are not far when these (Netanyahu and his ilk) have to swallow their irresponsible illogical words and bow their heads before reason," he forecast.

In other developments, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa visited Damascus yesterday to brief Syrian officials on the current developments in the region.

Arab League head Esmat Abdel Meguid was due to arrive in Paris yesterday looking to drum up French support in the peace process with Israel.

A report from Jerusalem said Likud member of Parliament Naomi Blumenthal has launched a campaign to 'help the estimated 25,000 Jews emigrate to Israel, claiming their lives are in danger in Iran.'

"Like other ethnic minorities, Jews are living in Iran happily and so far they have not filed any complaints of discrimination," an observer commented on the report.

"They (Jews) have their places of worship, schools, cultural centers and representation in the Majlis," he said.

Another report from Gaza City said Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will meet Arafat tomorrow.

However, by the afternoon Russian units had penetrated the Chechen's first line of defense.

Throughout the night, Russian aircraft kept up their attacks on the area, providing support for tanks. Bombardments began anew early yesterday morning, said Udugov.

"Yesterday the fighting was taking place principally around Borzoi," a village about eight miles to the south of Shatoi, said Udugov.

Russian military spokesman Igor Melnikov was quoted as saying that between 250 and 300 Chechen fighters are dug in at Shatoi.

But Udugov denied Russian reports that the region was home to a reinforced separatist base.

"These are just volunteers who are defending their village," he said. Russian forces had been preparing for the offensive since the middle of the week, and large numbers of reinforcements and supplies were assembled round the village. Around 100 armored

Tehran Temperature			
Maximum	35°C		
Minimum	23°C		
Shiny sky with wind			
Temperature extremes till noon today			
High: Omidivah	49°C		
Low: Shahr-e Kord	10°C		
Temperature in some major cities of the world on July 21, 1996			
Abu Dhabi	41°C	Madrid	33°C
Moscow	19°C	Kuwait	44°C
Rome	28°C	Paris	28°C
Jeddah	37°C	London	27°C

vehicles were positioned some 12 miles north of Shatoi.

Their planes have been bombarding mountain villages in the southeast of Chechnya over the past two weeks in violation of a fragile cease-fire which has theoretically been in force since June 1.

The war has already claimed an estimated 40,000 lives, mostly civilians, since Moscow sent its troops to Chechnya in December 1994 to crush an independence bid.

Between Tuesday and Friday, Russian forces rained bombs on the regions of Shatoi, Itum-Khale, Mekhikety and Vedeno, all still under separatist control.

An AFP correspondent in the area said splinter bombs and large caliber multiple rocket-launchers had also been used Saturday.

The villages in the southeastern mountains are the last bastions of the separatists and many of their inhabitants have fled the incessant bombing of the past two weeks.

The offensive will complicate the resumption of peace talks, which were broken off some two weeks ago.

Chechen separatist Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov agreed on Saturday to meet General Anatoly Kvashnin, Russian commander in the northern Caucasus, the rebels' official agency Chechen Press reported, without specifying a date.

TRANSFERRED INSTALLATIONS

-gas pipes: 350 meters of 250 - pound pipes (16 and 24 inches)

-gas pipes: 100 meters of 60 - pound pipes (6 and 8 inches)

-potable water pipes: 150 meters of 250 - class pipes

-telecommunications cables: 1,200 meters of various types of (fiber optic and metal) cables

-canals to collect and harness surface waters: 260 meters of this network including 600, 1,200, and 1,600 millimeter pipes have been transferred to the new route

SAHEB AL - AMR TRADITIONAL MARKET

-project specifications: an area of 4,500 square meters

-total infrastructure: 11,000 square meters

-number of stories of the southern wing: 3

-number of stories of the northern wing: 2

-number of commercial units: 266

-type of building: metal skeleton with bricks on outer walls

-start of operations: 1373

-end of operations: end of 1374

-expenses: 3 billion rials

-implementation mode: the project was enforced based on collaboration

-task master: Development Organization

FIROOZEH MARKET

-project specifications: an area of 1,600 square meters

-total infrastructure: 8,000

square meters

-number of stories: 6. The second and third floors are allocated to services.

-number of services units: 30

-number of commercial units: 114

-type of building: metal skeleton with Roman outer walls

-start of operations: 1372

-end of operations: end of 1374

-implementation mode: the project was carried out through collaboration

-task master: Development Organization

his family to stay because he did not want to abandon his property in Tehran, one of his brothers said.

Menashe said the Parliamentary Committee's conclusions were "exaggerated," and that he believed the new campaign to bring Iranian Jews to Israel was "misguided."

"Their immigration depends first of all on their desire to do so, and most Iranian Jews do not want to leave their country," said Menashe.

"Some of them do not believe they will be able to adjust to a new country, others do not have the money and, mostly importantly, in spite of latent anti-semitism there is not really any anti-Jewish persecution in Iran," he said.

Iran and Israel have been at daggers drawn since the 1979 Revolution in Iran which deposed the Shah and brought the Islamic activists to power.

Israel accuses Tehran of sponsoring anti-Israeli terrorism around the world, and of supplying arms, training and political direction to Lebanese and Palestinian groups waging armed resistance to Israel.

Most Iranian Jews emigrated to Israel when the Jewish state was set up in 1948, and many run small shops in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

and design plans.

This is undertaken by the Iranian consultant engineers who mainly enjoy high academic and technical capabilities. They are also fully versed with up - to - date facilities and technology.

The plans devised by the relevant experts are studied by the development companies of each town, the technical committees of the Company for Development of the New Towns, the experts of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Energy and affiliated companies, the Environment Protection Organization, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Interior, and other relevant organizations and bodies.

During the entire process, effort is made to reap benefit of the latest developments and experiences of other countries.

In the phase of implementation, the plans are revised or optimized on the basis of the said developments.

of OPEC

Iran, Brazil to Cooperate in Agricultural Research

Us Signed by Uzbekistan

the next generation will be totally alienated from Iran. If we fail to take decisive action at this stage, the future generations will criticize us for having failed to attract back to the homeland a great portion of the nation who are now torn off from their motherland through error or force of unfortunate circumstances.

Israel, Lebanon Swap Bodies and Prisoners

BEIRUT (AFP) - Israel and the Hizbollah yesterday began the large-scale exchange of bodies and prisoners under an unprecedented deal brokered by German intelligence officials.

Hizbollah released the remains of two Israeli soldiers killed in South Lebanon 10 years ago to Red Cross officials in Beirut, from where they were flown to the Jewish state on board a German military aircraft.

The bodies of Rahamim Al-Sheikh and Yossef Fink, placed in metal containers, were received with full military honors at an air base near Tel Aviv.

Hizbollah also released 17 prisoners from Israel's client militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), who were transported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the Kfar Tebmit crossing into the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Israel, for its part, trucked the bodies of 123 anti-Israeli guerrillas, mostly from Hizbollah, to the occupied buffer zone to be returned to the Shia Muslim activist group.

It also began releasing 45 Lebanese prisoners from the notorious Khayam jail in the occupied zone, where around 200 detainees are held without trial, some for as many as 10 years.

The handover appeared to be going smoothly, although a possible hitch developed when the 17 freed SLA fighters said they did not want to return to the "security zone", insisting instead they wanted to go to Beirut.

Thousands of relatives waited anxiously at Kfar Tebmit for the return of the Hizbollah prisoners and the remains of the anti-Israeli fighters, while Hizbollah decked out the nearby town of Nabatiyeh with yellow flags and banners welcoming back the "martyrs."

Sunday's exchange capped months of secret negotiations led by German Secretary of State and Secret Services Coordinator, Bernd Schmidbauer.

Schmidbauer supervised the return of the bodies of the two Israeli soldiers at Beirut airport and hinted that more exchanges could follow.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he hoped Hizbollah guerrillas would curb their anti-Israeli attacks after the two sides' unprecedented exchange of prisoners and bodies.

"We hope it is a change of attitude on the part of the Hizbollah, whether it is a change of policy it is premature to say that now," said Netanyahu, referring to the Shia Muslim group's approval of the swap.

Netanyahu also hinted at an eventual withdrawal from Israel's self-declared "security zone" if

Hizbollah stopped its attacks against Israel.

"We don't have territorial claims in Lebanon, we are there to protect the northern part of our country," he said. "If that need is removed, we will not be in South Lebanon."

He publicly thanked German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for Bonn's part in the return of the bodies of two Israeli soldiers by Hizbollah guerrillas as part of a deal brokered by Kohl aide Bernd Schmidbauer.

Samper Hit by Death Threats as Colombia's "Extraditables" Return



BOGOTA (AFP) - President Ernesto Samper has been hit with death threats as the reopened debate on allowing Colombian drug traffickers to stand trial in the United States has would-be "extraditables" literally up in arms, police said Saturday.

"It was predictable that after the proposal of the government to toughen sentences for drug traffickers and to open the debate on extradition, threats would follow," national police chief General Rosso Jose Serrano said.

On Friday the clandestine group calling itself "the extraditables" warned it would resume its violent activities if the government allowed Colombians to be tried in foreign courts.

Security forces have been placed on maximum alert, Serrano said at a mass marking Colombia's Independence Day.

Extraditions were banned by the 1991 constitution amid one of Colombia's most violent waves of terrorism, which was attributed to the self-styled "extraditables."

In a statement Friday the group accused Samper of "kneeling before the Americans" by reviving the possibility of extradition after the United States last month asked for four Cali Cartel leaders to be sent to stand trial in U.S. courts.

Bogota at first flatly denied the request but as U.S.-Colombian relations continued to plummet, Samper reconsidered.

Pakistan Denies Maintaining Taliban Planes

TEHRAN - The spokesman of the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strongly refuted the allegations leveled by a defecting Afghan pilot, Abdul Jalil, saying that Pakistani technicians had helped repair and maintain Taliban aircraft at Kandhar Airport.

According to a press release from Pakistan Embassy in Tehran, the spokesman said that Pakistan has repeatedly stated its neutrality in intra Afghan rivalries and has not provided any military assistance to the warring factions in Afghanistan. It has always worked to facilitate a durable settlement in Afghanistan with whose people it enjoys religious, cultural and political affinities.

The spokesman further said that the Taliban have aircraft of Russian manufacture which Pakistan does not have. Hence the provision of spare part or technical expertise for repair of aircraft does not arise. The allegations of the Afghan pilot are motivated by malicious designs to create a wedge between the peoples of the two countries, the spokesman added.

U.S. Fighter Drops a Bomb by Accident in Bosnia

BRCKO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (AFP) - A U.S. navy F-18 fighter dropped a 500-pound (225-kilogram) bomb by accident on Saturday, narrowly missing a base occupied by NATO peacekeepers, NATO officers said.

"At 4:35 p.m. (14:35 GMT) this afternoon an IFOR aircraft conducting routine training inadvertently dropped a 500-pound bomb," Captain Christopher Redmond, a spokesman for the NATO-led Peace Implementation Force, said in Sarajevo.

The bomb exploded in an open area near to an IFOR base, Fort McGowan, five kilometers (three miles) from the strategic Serb-held town of Brcko, he added.

There were no reports of either military or civilian casualties.

Lt. Col. Anthony Cucolo, speaking at Fort McGowan, said the bomb fell on the perimeter of the base, just 300 to 400 meters from living quarters, hitting sandbags and an unmanned bunker.

Some 600 military personnel live at the base.

The bomb has a kill radius of 400 meters, military officers said. Half of its weight consisted of explosives, but its laser guidance system has not activated.

Luckiest were two soldiers who escaped unhurt from the observation tower they were manning, just 100 meters from the point of impact.

Arab League Head Seeks French Support for Peace

CAIRO (AFP) - Arab League Head Esmat Abdel Meguid left here for Paris yesterday, looking to drum up French support in the peace process with Israel.

Abdel Meguid told journalists before leaving that he would meet President Jacques Chirac and other top officials for talks on "the future of the peace process" during his four-day stay in France.

"I will underline the importance of the French role and ask

for an increasing European role in informing Israel of the dangers in failing to stick to the bases of the peace process," Abdel Meguid said.

Abdel Meguid will also sign a special accord in Paris between the League and the U.N. cultural agency UNESCO on "cooperation in providing aid to the Palestinians in education, communications, culture and identity."



YINCHUAN, CHINA: Hui Muslims attend Friday prayers at a mosque in Yinchuan, China's northern Ningxia province July 12. The Hui, who make up half of the Muslim population in China, take a dim view of Islamic separation in the northwestern region of Xinjiang and instead seek to keep the fragile peace with the Han Chinese. (AFP Photo)

Turkish Police Arrest 134 at Pro-Prisoner Sit-in

ANKARA (AFP) - Turkish police Saturday arrested 134 people in Ankara taking part in a sit-in in support of prisoners engaged in a hunger strike at several prisons around the country, eye-witnesses said.

Baton-wielding police intervened to disperse around 150 people chanting slogans in front of the headquarters of the left-wing Freedom and Solidarity Party in central Ankara, the witnesses said.

Many of the demonstrators were violently manhandled by the police during the arrests, they said.

The demonstrators are demanding a positive response by the Turkish authorities to the nationwide hunger strike by the prisoners, three of whom were said on Wednesday to be near death with several others in a serious condition.

Mass Protest After 300 Massacred at Burundi Refugee Camp

BUJUMBURA (AFP) - Some 5,000 people took to the streets here yesterday to protest the massacre of more than 300 women, children and elderly men at a camp for displaced Tutsis in central Burundi.

The demonstrators, mainly young Tutsis, began their protest as the Burundi government blamed Hutu rebels for the attack Saturday on the camp at Bugendana.

At least 304 people were killed, 150 injured and 30 are missing after rebel Hutus attacked a camp of displaced Tutsis in central Burundi, national television reported overnight.

Most of the dead were apparently children, women and old men.

Earlier reports had put the death toll at 200 in the attack Saturday on the camp at Bugendana.

The television showed horrifying pictures of the bodies of children who had been decapitated with machetes, half-dressed women, men without faces, piled up in the hangar where they had been sheltering.

The injured were evacuated to



hospital in the provincial capital Gitega. They said they knew some of the killers, who had disappeared back into the bush.

Hundreds of attackers were involved in the massacre and had probably come from the neighboring province of Karuzi, a government spokesman said Saturday.

Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo, from the ethnic Tutsi

minority, denounced the "massacre of orphaned children from the genocide of October 1993" when 50,000 people died in violence unleashed by the assassination of the country's first Hutu President, Melchior Ndadaye, in an abortive military coup.

Nduwayo called on foreign diplomats to visit the camp to see "how the real perpetrators of

genocide behave."

The majority of foreign representatives failed to respond to a similar plea to visit the site of a massacre at a tea factory in Teza earlier this month where 98 Tutsis died.

Nduwayo's Cabinet Chief Marc Ntunye blamed rebels from the Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD) for the attack.

Indonesian Military Wants Free Speech Rallies Banned

JAKARTA (AFP) - Indonesia's military has called for an end to a daily free speech forum outside the headquarters of an opposition party, the official Antara news agency reported yesterday.

"Judging by what has developed during these free speech rallies, it seems they are attempting to launch something against the government - albeit in embryonic form," Lt. Gen. Syarwan Hamid, the armed forces political affairs chief, was quoted saying.

Crowds of up to three thousand people have regularly gathered outside the headquarters of the Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI) over the last month to listen to critics accuse the government of meddling in the party's affairs.

Megawati Sukarnoputri was last month deposed as PDI leader at a breakaway congress held with the tacit support of the government and the military.

Radzic Will Face Trial Sooner or Later, Solana

Tomils: 1,000 Soldiers

Israel Warned U.S.



NEW YORK, N.Y. U.S.A. Ron Dwyer is himself July 20 outside the Ramada Inn New York as he speaks to the media daughter, Larkyn Dwyer, who was that exploded July 17 Dwyer is Irish area.

مكتبة الأمل



IRAN
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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Karadzic Will Face Trial Sooner or Later, Solana

MADRID (AFP) - Bosnian Serb Leader Radovan Karadzic will "sooner or later" face trial for alleged war crimes, NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said in an interview published here yesterday.

"Sooner or later, Karadzic will find himself in the dock" of the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Solana told the Spanish daily ABC.

Under heavy U.S. pressure, Karadzic on Friday resigned as president of the Serb entity in Bosnia and head of the ruling Serb party.

But he remains free despite his indictment by the U.N. War Crimes Court in The Hague on charges of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.

The NATO-led peace implementation force has more than 50,000 troops in Bosnia but has so far failed to arrest Karadzic.

33 Including 20 Britons Hurt in Spanish ETA Airport Bombing



TARRAGONA, SPAIN (AFP) - Three bombs claimed by Basque extremists blasted Spain's resort-lined Mediterranean coast on Saturday, with one of them hurting 33 people at a busy airport - at least 20 of them British.

Four of the injured at Reus Airport near Tarragona, a Spanish woman and three British nationals

including a six-year-old girl, were in serious condition, according to a provisional toll.

Spain's civil guard, or national police, said the Basque separatist group ETA claimed responsibility for the attacks, which targeted sites frequented by summer holiday-makers.

The most serious of the three bombs went off at 7:40 p.m. (17:40 GMT) at Reus where all of the injuries were reported -- most of them British tourists, the local authorities reported.

The two others exploded half an hour later at the beach resorts of Cambrils and Salou south of Tarragona. Nobody was hurt in the blasts at a hotel and on the promenade respectively.

In a statement, Spain's Secretary of State for Communications Miguel Angel Rodriguez condemned the bombings. He called for public "calm and serenity" in the face of what he called an attempt by ETA to "sow confusion."

The waiting area at Reus was thronged by holiday-makers, mostly British, when the bomb went off as five flights for Britain were scheduled. Witnesses said crowds milled around in confusion as the floor was covered in abandoned luggage and pools of blood.

A provisional list of the wounded released by the authorities here said three British nationals were in the Santa Tecla Hospital in Tarragona, 11 others at San Joan de Reus Hospital eight kilometers from Tarragona city where the airport is located, and at least six in the Joan XXIII Hospital here.

Six other injured persons whose nationalities were not known were in the Joan XXIII Hospital, but five of them had Anglo-Saxon-sounding names.

The list named seven Spanish victims.

Zeroual Warps-up Talks Amid Renewed Violence

ALGIERS (AFP) - President Liamine Zeroual wrapped up a series of talks with party leaders on Algeria's political future at the weekend amid a background of renewed violence.

Zeroual met delegates from 12 political parties and agreed to set up three mixed-party commissions to prepare for a national political conference, a referendum on constitutional changes and legislative elections to be held early next year.

But the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was excluded from the talks and Zeroual made it clear he wanted the movement out of the political picture.

The parties are split on the participation of the FIS in the national conference to be held before the end of the summer.

Armed Islamic activists, including the FIS and the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), have been fighting the military-backed authorities since the cancellation in January 1992 of the second round of legislative elections which the FIS was poised to win.

Between 50,000 and 70,000 people are estimated to have died in the conflict.

The country has been hit by a new series of bombings and assassinations since May.

Five people were killed and 30 injured Saturday when a bomb exploded in a cafe in Kolea, west of the capital.

The blast came two days after press reports said as many as 19 people were killed in two attacks Wednesday in the town Blida, south of Algiers.

Afghan President Appoints New Ministers

KABUL (AFP) - Afghanistan's president has appointed a new deputy prime minister and two acting ministers to serve in Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's expanding government, officials said yesterday.

The new appointments by President Burhanuddin Rabbani on Hekmatyar's advice came two weeks after the first eight of 26 ministers in the fragile new five-party interim coalition were announced.

Rabbani on Saturday confirmed Hekmatyar's choice of Outbuddin Helal, one of Hek-

matyar's top political officers, as deputy premier in the 25-day old administration, the ministerial officials said.

Helal acted as deputy prime minister during Hekmatyar's first term in the job in 1993 and 1994, which ended in a Hekmatyar helping to launch an abortive coup attempt against Rabbani.

Rabbani also announced that two vacant ministerial posts -- agriculture and city planning -- would be temporarily filled by new acting ministers until Hekmatyar's final Cabinet is announced, the officials said.

Speaker of Indian Parliament Urges New MPs to Be Better Behaved

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The speaker of the Indian parliament Saturday asked new MPs to refrain from heckling and interrupting business, saying it affected legislation and cost the exchequer dearly.

"I am personally concerned about time management," Purno Sangma, speaker of the 545-seat lower house of parliament, told new lawmakers. "Members should collectively make an effort to avoid wastage of time, energy and money."

Proceedings in the Indian Parliament are raucous and often get out of hand, prompting numerous adjournments. Sangma, who was elected speaker in May, has repeatedly asked MPs to behave, reminding them they were on national television.

The state-run Doordarshan television airs question hour in parliament live daily.

Sangma said interruptions, heckling and walk-outs in the last Parliament translated into an expenditure of 75.4 million rupees (\$2.1 million). Each hour in Parliament costs 285,000 (\$8,142) on an average.

"We have to rethink about the entire thing," he said.

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Tamils: 1,000 Soldiers Killed Amid Continued Fighting

COLOMBO (AFP) - Tamil Tiger guerrillas yesterday said they had slaughtered 1,000 Sri Lankan soldiers after overrunning an army camp, dealing a humiliating blow to the military, as fighting raged into a fourth day.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement that 1,000 troops have perished in the battle of Mullaitivu, in the island's northeast, since a massive

rebel offensive on Thursday.

It said LTTE guerrillas and civilians were "removing hundreds of bodies of soldiers from the camp" and moving them to Killinochchi in the island's north to be handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"Large numbers of bodies are still to be recovered from debris of building (in the fallen military complex). Severely decomposed

bodies are being cremated in the camp area," the statement, issued from London, said.

The Sri Lankan government did not comment on the LTTE body count, but a military spokesman said there was no communication with the Mullaitivu garrison, and that reinforcements had failed to link up with the camp.

Israel Warned U.S. of Air Sabotage Threat

LONDON (AFP) - Israel's secret service had warned its U.S. counterpart in early July of a possible "sabotage or hijacking" attempt on an American aircraft by Islamic activists, the Sunday Times reports.

The information was given to a U.S. intelligence official in Tel Aviv, the Sunday Times said, quoting a "senior Israeli intelligence officer monitoring Middle East terrorist groups."

"The threat of sabotage or a hijacking against an American plane was analyzed and considered serious enough for U.S. to pass on to the Americans," the official was quoted as saying.

"It was then up to the Ameri-

cans to assess the dangers and decide whether to pass it on to their airlines," the official said, without specifying the source of the threat.

U.S. officials as well as TWA said following the mid-air explosion Wednesday of the New York-to-Paris Boeing 747 carrying 230 on board, that no specific terrorist threat had been received.

Meanwhile, salvage operations continued through the night on Saturday amid hopes that calmer weather yesterday would produce a breakthrough in search for more bodies and clues from the ocean wreckage of TWA Flight 800.

Choppy seas on Saturday hampered the search over a broad stretch of Atlantic Ocean off Long

Island which has so far failed to locate the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder.

But investigators said they were "heartened" by Saturday's sonar detection of a substantial piece of wreckage that could contain vital evidence and most of the bodies.

Since Wednesday's crash of the Paris-bound TWA Boeing 747 after takeoff from New York with 230 people on board, around 100 bodies have been recovered, and less than one percent of the plane wreckage.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Anti-Terrorism Task Force Chief James Kallstrom said that he hoped the sunny and calm weather predicted for yesterday would be "a good day" for the search operations.

National Transportation Safety Board vice chairman Robert Francis told the same news conference on Long Island that police boats searching an area mapped out by a C-130 aircraft crew using a scanner found "a trail of presumed wreckage."

"That trail culminates in a lot of something, sufficiently large that the sonar that was trailed behind the boats got caught up in whatever it is down there, and was damaged," he said.

Francis said the rescue workers would attempt to photograph the wreckage piece yesterday, and attempt to send down divers.

On Saturday, the navy ship Pinnonette was hampered by waves of more than two meters (six to eight feet).

The FBI is treating the crash site as a crime scene, though officials have so far declined to attribute the plane's downing to a terrorist attack.



NEW YORK, N.Y., U.S.A.: Ron Dwyer (L) pauses to compose himself July 20 outside the Ramada Inn at Kennedy Airport in New York as he speaks to the media about his 11-year-old daughter, Larkyn Lyn Dwyer, who was on the TWA Flight 800 that exploded July 17. Dwyer is from the Phoenix, Arizona, area.

(AFP Photo)

ircotics Conve
Eastern Iran

The World at a Glance

UNITED NATIONS -- The U.N. Security Council is expected to criticize Cuba but refrain from ordering punitive measures when it discusses Monday an official report on the downing of two small U.S. planes by Cuban fighters.

SEOUL, S. KOREA -- South Korean delegates have arrived in North Korea for U.S.-led talks on a multinational project to build safe nuclear reactors in the energy-short Communist nations, Pyongyang's officials media said.

GLASGOW, BRITAIN -- Forty-eight people were injured, three seriously, near here yesterday when the bus they were traveling in overturned for reasons not immediately known, police said.

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL -- Two ultra-Orthodox ministers yesterday threatened to resign from the fledgling government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the distributions of Cabinet portfolios.

FRANKFURT, GERMANY -- A United Airlines flight bound for Washington from Frankfurt was delayed several hours because it had one passenger too many, airport authorities said yesterday.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA -- President Boris Yeltsin has ordered a clean-up of the Russian military establishment, tainted with scandal amid reports that officers built themselves luxurious homes and salted away millions of dollars while conscripts were bullied and starved in crumbling barracks.

(DISPATCHES)

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Perugini Wins 125cc British GP

DONINGTON, ENGLAND (AFP) - Italy's Stefano Perugini won the 125cc event at the British Motorcycling Grand Prix here on Sunday for his third win of the season.

Japan's Masaki Tokudome, also on an Aprilia, finished in second spot 2.6 seconds behind Perugini after starting from pole position.

Japan's Tomomi Manako came third on a Honda. But Japan's Haruchika aoki, on a Honda, retained his lead in the overall standings.

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SPORTS

Muster, Master of Clay

STUTTGART, GERMANY (AFP) - Thomas Muster woo a battle of French Open champions on Sunday, proving himself the master on clay with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the final of the one-million-dollar ATP event here.

The 28-year-old Austrian, the Roland Garros champion in 1995, dominated the 22-year-old challenger from Sochi to earn a check for \$157,000, plus 280 ATP Tour computer points and a car worth \$50,000.

That prize was presented on court by Formula One driver Mika Hakkinen of Finland. It was the second vehicle the world No. 2 has taken away from the Weissenhof Club after winning the event last year also.

Muster needed six match points to secure the victory after Kafelnikov saved four in the ninth game of the third set and one more a game later before Muster finally triumphed.

Muster's 1996 record now includes the successful defense of

six titles from 1995. The Austrian heads the tour winner's list for this year.

The victory was Muster's third in a row over Kafelnikov, the current Paris Grand Slam holder, who will move up to No. 4 in the world from his current No. 6 position.

The Austrian has now earned 41 career titles and has won 104 clay-court matches since the start of 1995. His only losses on his favored surface since January a year ago have come against three Spaniards and German Michael Stich in the fourth round at this year's French Open.

Muster became only the second man (Argentine Martin Jaitte, 1986, 1989) to have taken the title here twice.

It didn't take long for Muster to begin his domination on a sunny afternoon.

After holding and losing three chances in the third game of the opening set to take a lead, Muster finally earned the first break of the match as Kafelnikov put a

forehand return long to drop to 2-3.

The Austrian increased the pressure as he broke again for 5-2 after saving two break points against his own serve in the previous game.

Kafelnikov saved a set point in the eighth game, forced Muster to fight back from a breakpoint deficit, but finally fell with a return to the net to give the Austrian the early lead after 36 minutes.

In the second set, the top seed quickly consolidated his margin, moving to 2-1 from a forehand winner as Kafelnikov's frustration grew.

Muster's form improved even more as he lost only two points on serve while adding a break in the seventh game to grab a commanding two-sets-to-one margin after a 22-minute second set.

In the third, Kafelnikov's hopes began to fade after six games on serve.

The second seed held a 40-15 lead in the seventh game, but Muster powered back

Brown of Durham in Surprise Call-up

LONDON (AFP) - Left-arm pace bowler Simon Brown was the surprise selection in the England squad announced Sunday to play Pakistan in the first test at Lord's on Thursday, reward for his 56 victims this season.

The 27-year-old becomes only the second Durham player to be called up for England, after Ian Botham four years ago.

"He's taken a lot of wickets and had a great season," explained chairman of selectors, Ray Illingworth.

"A lot of people say there is a lot to bowl at up at Durham but on the other hand he has taken a lot of wickets away from there as well. He deserves to have a crack if there is a chance at all."

Nick Knight, who tamed leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed in an unbeaten 90 during Warwickshire's seven-wicket victory over Pakistan earlier this week, has also been recalled after cracking a finger in the opening test against India.

Their chances of playing could depend on fitness tests to Nasser Hussain and Chris Lewis, who will be given until Tuesday to prove they have recovered from injuries.

If Hussain, who has not played since he hurt a hand against India at Trent Bridge, fails to recover, Alec Stewart is likely to drop down to three and allow Knight to open with captain Michael Atherton.

Lewis, who is suffering from a slight thigh strain, will certainly play if fit, leaving a likely swap between Alan Mullally or Brown for the other spot alongside Dominic Cork.

Ian Salisbury is also likely to play in the starting XI and will share spinning duties with Graeme Hick.

Ullrich a Good Bet

SAINT-EMILION, FRANCE (Reuters) - Jan Ullrich will not win this year's Tour de France but the class he has shown makes him a likely candidate for future years.

Working hard for Dane Bjarne Riis has not stopped the 22-year-old from Rostock, making his first appearance in the race, taking second place overall behind his leader in the Telekom stable.

When the tour ends in Paris on Sunday, Ullrich should become the first German to have finished second.

But his superb win in Saturday's Penultimate Stage, a demanding time-trial over 63.5 kms from Bordeaux to Saint-Emilion, suggested he might go for more than just second place in the overall future.

"It's quite remarkable when you think that he has been helping Riis all the time," said the Spaniard, who had to settle for second place in the stage.

Faldo At One with the Fans At Last

LYTHAM, ENGLAND (AFP) - Nick Faldo has another mountain to climb if he is to win a fourth British Open Sunday but his gritty performance here has already nailed him one elusive reward.

Long held in awe and respect by the British public for his single-minded determination to be the best in the world, Faldo at last appears to have won a place in their hearts as well.

"I'm enjoying the reception I'm getting out there. It's just great," said Faldo. "It's a bit difficult sometimes, because they are egging me on so much."

Sports Highlights



BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA: Argentina's Adrian Opez Gustavo fights for the ball with U.S. Brian Maisonneuve (L) and Damian Silveira (R) late July 20 in Birmingham during their men's football Group A match.

(AFP Photo)

Olympic Games Program

Saturday August 3

Athletics (Olympic Stadium)

Men's javelin final (18h55), 4x100m relay final (19h20), 1500m final (19h50), 5,000m final (20h40), 4x400m relay final (21h40)

Women's high jump final (18h30), 4x100m relay final (19h), 1500m final (20h15), 4x400m relay final (21h15)

Canoe-Kayak (Lake Lanier) (9h-11h55)

Kayak single and pairs 1000m finals

Canoe single and pairs 1000m finals

Kayak fours 1000m finals

Women's kayak fours 500m finals

Cycling-Road

Men's and women's individual time trial finals (8h30-15h35)

Equestrian dressage (Georgia International Horse Park)

Individual dressage final-freestyle (9h-12h20)

Football (Sanford Stadium, Athens, Georgia)

Men's gold medal match (15h30-17h45)

Rhythmic gymnastics (University of Georgia)

Women's individual semi-finals (10h-12h50)

Handball (Georgia World Congress Center)

Women's bronze and gold medal matches (15h30-18h45)

Tennis (Stone Mountain Park)

Men's singles bronze medal match (10h), men's singles gold medal match (13h)

Women's doubles gold medal match (16h)

Volleyball (Omni Coliseum)

Women's bronze and gold medal matches (12h-16h45)

Day ends, Sunday August 4

Athletics (Olympic Stadium)

Men's marathon (7h)

Basketball (Georgia Dome)

Women's team bronze (16h) and gold medal (18h35) games

Boxing (Alexander Memorial Coliseum)

Gold medal bouts: flyweight, featherweight, light welterweight, light middleweight, light heavyweight, super heavyweight (13h30-16h)

Canoe-kayak (Lake Lanier) (9h-11h55)

Men's Kayak single and pairs 500m finals

Canoe single and pairs 500m finals

Women's kayak single and pairs 500m finals

Equestrian (Georgia International Horse Park)

Individual show-jumping semi-finals (10h-12h30)

Individual show-jumping finals (14h-16h)

Rhythmic gymnastics (University of Georgia)

Women's individual finals (13h-15h15)

Handball (Georgia World Congress Center)

Men's team bronze (11h) and gold medal (13h) matches

Volleyball (Omni Coliseum)

Men's bronze and gold medal matches (12h-16h45)

Day ends.

End of 1996 Atlanta Olympics

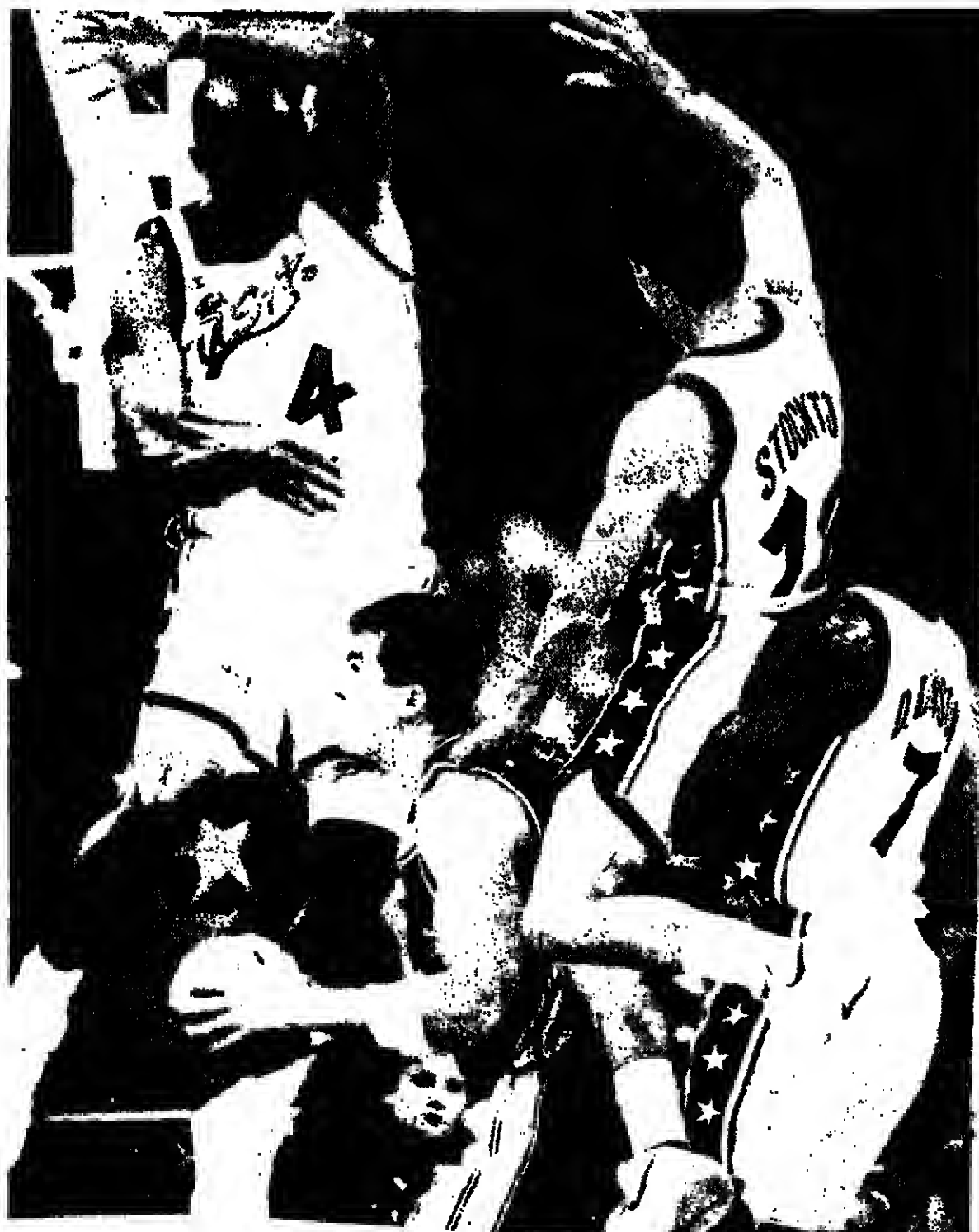
The First Since the 1979

Islamic Revolution

ATLANTA (Reuters) - Lida Fariman, 24, wore a green head scarf to keep her hair out of view but otherwise dressed in standard leather shooting jacket and trousers worn by all competitors.

She failed to qualify for the finals, finishing in 46th place out of 49 starters in the preliminaries.

But she is sure to remember her first games fondly, having had the honor of carrying the Iranian flag during Friday night's opening ceremony.



ATLANTA: Charles Barkley (L) and John Stockton (R) of the U.S. leap in the air to block the shot of drives Ruben Wolkowsky of Argentina during the first half of their Olympic basketball game July 20 at the Georgia Dome.

(AFP Photo)



کتابخانه

New Bid Launched to Probe Mysteries of Universe

GENEVA (Reuters) - A major experimental program was launched lately which may help physicists unlock some of the greatest mysteries of the Universe, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) said.

CERN announced that its recently transformed accelerator, the Large Electron-Positron Collider (LEP), had produced its first pair of fundamental particles known as "W" - "taking particle physics research into new and unexplored territory".

W particles were discovered at CERN in 1983 but have never been generated in sufficient quantities to enable study of their behavior and exact role in how the Universe functions.

More than 2,000 particle physicists - European, American, Japanese and Russian - are expected to work on the program at the Geneva-based research center supported by 19 countries.

Scientists in the control room at CERN, which straddles the Franco-Swiss border on the edge of the city, clapped and cheered as it became clear the particle pair had been formed. "The champagne will have to wait till later," said one CERN source.

CERN spokesman Neil Calder said earlier that physicists were keen to test new theories, including the suspected existence of a whole new range of "Supersymmetric particles" which could provide the link between the concepts of force and matter.

"Our current understanding of how the Universe works has shown a certain number of particles. However, enormous mysteries remain. The biggest is the 'missing mass' of the universe," Calder said.

"If you count up the weight of all we can see - the planets and galaxies - it only comes to about

10 percent of the universe's weight. That means man has never seen 90 percent of what the universe is made of."

He added: "one strong possible explanation of the missing mass is the existence of a completely new set of particles which are called Supersymmetric."

"If they exist there is a very good chance we find them at the LEP2 which would give an explanation of what the majority of the Universe is made of."

In addition to studying the W particles themselves, top physicists from around the world hope to find the Higgs Boson (particle), which could explain how all particles acquire mass.

Christopher Llewellyn Smith, director-general of CERN where the world wide web system for navigating on the Internet was invented in 1989, welcomed the launching of the program at the

LEP, which runs in a tunnel under French and Swiss territory.

"This will keep us busy until the end of the decade," he told Reuters.

Producing the W has a double significance, according to the British professor.

"First of all, studying the W will allow us greater precision of the ideas we have been developing about it over the last 20 years," Llewellyn Smith said.

"The other thing is, the further you go up in energy, you are opening up a new window on possible new discoveries like Higgs Boson, though it will take time, and other possibilities such as Supersymmetric particles."

The 27-Km (18-mile) lep was designed to study one of nature's fundamental forces - the "weak force" fueling the Sun and also responsible for some forms of natural radioactivity.

Humans to Be Injected with AIDS Vaccine

HAVANA (AFP) - Scientists in Cuba will inject human subjects with an experimental AIDS vaccine beginning in September, it was announced here recently.

The vaccine, fashioned from a genetically-engineered virus, will be injected into a group of volunteers from the center of genetic

engineering and biotechnology, the director of the center told Gramma, Cuba's official newspaper.

Director Manuel Limonta said none of the subjects would be at risk since the virus used in the vaccine is genetically engineered.

37 Ancient Tombs Discovered Near Ismailia

CAIRO (AFP) - An ancient necropolis of 37 tombs has been discovered near the Suez Canal town of Ismailia, the Head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities Abdel Halim Nureddin announced recently. Twenty-four of the tombs date back to Egypt's pre-dynastic era (4,000 B.C.), while the 13 others date back to Greco-Roman rule (100 B.C.-400 A.D.), Nureddin said in a statement.

A team of archaeologists from Egypt and the University of London discovered the tombs in the

necropolis of Hassan Daud, 140 kilometers (90 miles) northeast of Cairo, where 514 tombs have been found since 1993.

The team discovered the "strange phenomenon" of "skeletons whose hands or pelvis contain pieces of pottery," Nureddin said, without specifying if this was found in the pre-dynastic or Greco-Roman tombs.

Animal skeletons were also found, including one of a cow, representing the Goddess Hathor, he said.

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As Austria Turns 1,000, Tourism Slump Dims Celebration

ST ANTON, AUSTRIA (Reuters) - Austria turns 1,000 this year, not with fireworks and champagne but with trepidation. Tourism, once the backbone of this Alpine economy, is crumbling and sales are on a slippery downhill slope.

Snow-capped mountains, ornate palaces, Waltzes, and apple strudel were once enough to draw millions of visitors to the land of Mozart.

But an abundance of cheap long-haul flights means Austria must now compete with far-flung exotic destinations like the beaches of Bali and the temples of Thailand.

And the relentless strength of Austria's currency, the schilling, means that a holiday in Austria is simply not an affordable option for the new generation of cost-conscious travelers.

Sputtering economies throughout Europe have also forced tourists to cut back on the length and frequency of vacations.

This is all very depressing for a country whose tourist industry accounts for one job in six and generates eight percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

"Today's traveller has a wealth of destinations to choose from. We're losing out as we're relatively expensive, and that's partly because personnel costs are so high," said Karl Schranz, a former triple world champion skier who in May successfully bid to stage the 2001 world skiing championships in St Anton, nestled deep in the Alps.

St Anton, a Tyrolean skiing center in the western-most tip of Austria, is a microcosm of what is happening throughout the country. Last winter Austria's premier ski resort suffered one of its worst tourist seasons despite being blessed by blankets of snow, unlike other European resorts.

"Tourism is suffering because the sharp appreciation of the schilling is making our resorts too expensive," said Heinrich Wagner, director of tourism in St Anton.

Gone are the hordes of beer-swilling Scandinavians who kept

the bars in this picturesque village more than afloat. Cuts in social welfare back home saw to that.

A decline in European visitors is felt across Austria as latest figures for the November to April winter season show total overnight stays fell 1.8 percent from a year ago.

More alarming than the 1.4 percent drop in foreign visitors, was the 2.8 percent plunge in domestic tourists as they shunned Austria's bleak winter and hefty prices to take advantage of bargain flights to sunnier climes.

"Austria must play its unique card of offering high quality and must also continue building on its high standards," said Hans Joerg Kroell, head of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Trade's Tourism and Leisure Section.

Last year Austria saw the number of visitors decline for the third year in a row. Overnight stays by foreigners fell 5.4 percent to 87 million and tourism revenue dropped two percent to 147 billion schillings (\$13.73 billion).

The leading economic research institute WIFO said the slump in the number of visitors last year led to a 32 percent decline in Austria's tourism surplus to 29.5 billion schillings, blowing a big hole in the country's balance of payments.

WIFO sees the surplus hitting a bottom in 1997 of 20.4 billion schillings after 21.9 billion forecast this year. "It's a European-wide problem - one of weak economies," said Egovgxe's tourism analyst.

Austria is particularly feeling the brunt of the economic slump in neighboring Germany as Germans account for a whopping three-quarters of overnight stays by foreigners.

"It's important to win over new markets such as Eastern Europe and the Far East. But it's more important to remember our main one - Germany," said Ingrid Krenn, spokeswoman of the state-funded Austrian Tourist Board Oesterreich Werbung.

For this purpose Austria has embarked on an advertising spree

on German television, touring family holidays, for example, where children up to the age of 12 have free board.

The country is also hoping to cash in on the earliest reference in writing to the name 'Austria' - the archaic Ostarriichi - 1,000 years ago by launching a "1,000 years of hospitality" campaign.

"People are constantly saying Austria's in a crisis - we're not at all. Vorarlberg and Tyrol together draw more tourists than the whole of Greece. And Salzburg attracts more than Turkey," said Krenn.

But she did admit that while tourism was burgeoning in those two countries, the boom days of Austria seem to belong to the past.

"Why come to Austria when you can go to the Dominican Republic for half the price?" said one tourism analyst, who declined to be named.

Assisted Suicide on Rise Among AIDS Victims

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA (Reuters) - Faced with the prospect of agonizing deaths, AIDS sufferers are resorting to assisted suicide to end their lives, researchers and doctors said.

Studies presented at the 11th International Conference on AIDS suggested that euthanasia is on the rise among AIDS patients in countries even where it is outlawed. The findings are likely to intensify a fierce ethical debate over euthanasia raging in many countries.

Because AIDS is incurable and patients often suffer excruciatingly painful deaths, suicide through drug overdose or other means is a relief for some victims, they said.

"With AIDS there is a very high degree of suffering. I can offer my patients a gentle death," said Dr. Henk-Maarten Laane, a Dutch doctor who has helped AIDS patients die.

A study of AIDS victims in Amsterdam found that one-quarter opted for assisted suicides, he said.

This is probably among the highest rates in the world because under Dutch law doctors are immune from prosecution for assisting a suicide if they follow strict guidelines.

The 25 percent frequency of euthanasia among AIDS patients was higher than the rate for victims of other diseases. For example, only 7.5 percent of Dutch cancer victims had assisted suicides.

Even in Canada, where assisting a suicide is a crime, euthanasia appears to be common. A study by Russ Ogden, a sociologist now working at the University of Exeter in Britain said.

Because it is illegal, patients are usually helped by loved ones or relatives and many resort to sometimes difficult-to-manage methods such as suffocation with plastic bags, using guns or razor blades, Ogden said.

Despite (Canada's) sanctions, euthanasia is still occurring. People are willing to go outside the law

and assist their loved ones and family members to die," he said. "My hunch is that it is on the increase."

Ogden found that 83 percent of the people with HIV and AIDS in his survey considered euthanasia a valid option and 44 percent had made plans for an assisted death.

In San Francisco, a survey of 118 doctors who treat AIDS patients found 53 percent had granted a patient's request for assisted suicide. On average, the doctors had helped four AIDS patients die, but one had assisted in 100 deaths.

The study found that 48 percent of the doctors were likely to grant such a request from an AIDS patient today, up from 28 percent in 1990.

"Physician-assisted suicide is becoming more widely accepted for patients with terminal HIV," said Dr. Donald Abrams of the University of California at San Francisco, who oversaw the study.



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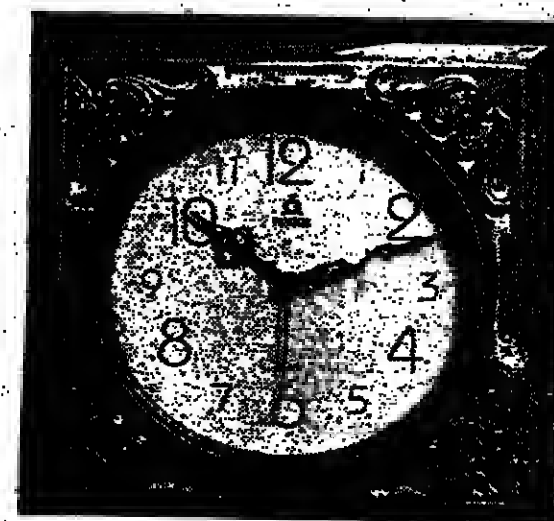
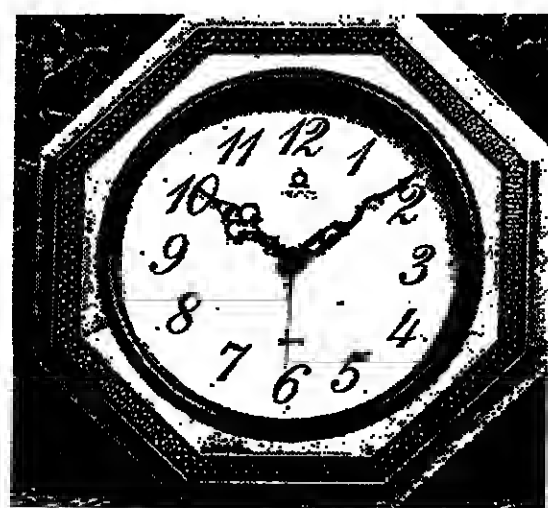
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ART NEWS

Perpetuating Iran's Historical Identity

International Congress on Timurid Art and Literature

MASHHAD - The 2-day International Congress on Iranian Studies: Literature and Art in the Timurid Period concluded at Homa Hotel here Friday.

Speakers at this congress delivered lectures dealing with Iran's history, literature, architecture, culture, and industry during the Timurid Period.

The congress was inaugurated Thursday by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mostafa Mirsalim who elaborated on Iran's cultural and artistic developments during the Timurid Period.

The congress was sponsored by the Islamic Culture and Communications Organization and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in collaboration with the Aftab Qods Razavi, the Cultural Heritage Organization, and the Faculties of Divinity and Literature of Mashhad's Ferdowsi University.

Foreign speakers at the congress were from India, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Engineer Mirsalim inaugurated an exhibition of the relics of the Timurid Period here.

An inspection tour was also organized for the congress guests to visit an exhibition of the relics of the Timurid Period at the Aftab Qods Razavi Library.

Manuscripts, miniatures, and



Culture minister, Mostafa Mirsalim delivering a speech at the inaugural session of the conference

paintings of the Timurid Period were put on display at the exhibition.

According to an expert of the Cultural Heritage Organization, there are more than 600 Timurid Period historical sites throughout Iran.

Congress Secretary Moham-

mad Ali Shoa'ee said the congress studied Timurid architecture, literature, and art and its impacts on Iran's international cultural ties with other countries, in particular Central Asian republics.

He noted that most speakers underscored the importance of preserving the factors that lead to the perpetuation of Iran's historical identity and laid special emphasis on the place and position of Divine values.

From the cultural perspective, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the inheritor of the Islamic and Iranian culture, Shoa'ee remarked.

This situation increases the need to promote Iran's cultural ties with special emphasis on the said factors.

Shoa'ee said that holding the Congress of Literature and Art in the Timurid Period is actually one part of the duties shouldered by the Secretariat of the International Congress of Iranian Studies.

In future, similar congresses will be held in Iran or abroad on the same theme, he explained.

He said Japan, India, China, and Turkey have expressed readiness to host the future Iranian studies congresses.

'Lone Star'

Riveting Murder Mystery with a Brilliant Script

In a movie summer filled with elaborately staged explosions and dumb comedies, "Lone Star" is a rare thing: a riveting murder mystery with a panorama of compelling, real-life characters held together by a brilliant script.

It's a towering achievement from writer-director John Sayles ("The Secret of Roan Inish," "Passion Fish") whose examination of life in a Texas border town achieves a stunning verisimilitude unmatched by many movies with much higher budgets.

At the center of the mix is Sam Deeds (Chris Cooper), sheriff of the fictional town of Frontera. He's a good-looking but tired man, whose father was the legendary and beloved Sheriff Buddy Deeds (Matthew McConaughey).

Sam walks around town proud but slightly uncomfortable with the legacy of his father. As one character puts it: "Sheriff Deeds is dead, honey - you just Sheriff Jr."

When the movie opens, Sam learns about a skeleton that has turned up on the outside of town. The skull bears a bullet hole and nearby is a tarnished sheriff's badge.

Given the age of the bones, it appears to be the body of Charley Wade, the sheriff who ruled Frontera four decades earlier with a hatred of minorities, a penchant for kickbacks and a very quick trigger finger.

The sadistic Wade, played superbly by Kris Kristofferson in flashbacks, had lots of enemies. It's not so surprising someone

killed him.

Sam, who doesn't have too much crime-busting to do in the sleepy town, resolves to investigate by searching out old files and interviewing anyone he can find who was around in "the old days."

The 40-year-old murder mystery implicates several people in town and fuels Sam's fears that the triggerman may actually have been his father.

"You have to be careful where you go poking around," one of the townspeople warns. "Who knows what you'll find."

Indeed, digging around in the Texas dirt, Sam finally learns much about the past, and not just who shot Charley Wade.

The murder investigation unfolds against the lives of several engaging characters as Frontera switches from an Anglo-run to a Hispanic-dominated town.

There's Pilar Cruz (Elizabeth Pena), the great love of Sam's teen years, who teaches at the local school. And there's her mother, Mercedes Cruz - played regally by Miriam Colon - a proud restaurant owner with her own bag of skeletons from the past.

The unusually good ensemble cast also features Delmore Payne (Joe Morton), a black colonel who immerses himself in army discipline as a way of distancing himself from his bar owner father Otis (Roy Canada).

As the movie progresses, the seemingly insignificant details of these peoples' lives help shed light on the ever-deepening web of revelations from the past.

Apart from one annoying plot twist near the end, perhaps the only false note in this grand film is the character of Sam's first wife. This manic-depressive pill-head with an obsessive interest in football (Frances McDormand) is so overdrawn it seems she belongs in another, cruder movie.

A few quibbles aside, "Lone Star" is a movie that will stay with you for a long time. It's a remarkable look at how every generation tries to move on, but how sometimes the shadows of the past just pull you back.

Given that Sayles has directed such music videos as "Born in the USA" and "Glory Days" for Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band, it's no surprise that everything is elegantly stitched together with a haunting multi-ethnic soundtrack including selections from Southern Blues, Zydeco and '50s rock 'n' roll. (AP)

Whoopi Goldberg Authors

'The Book'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Actress/comedienne Whoopi Goldberg will publish a non-autobiographical, "observational" book based on her life next year for a cool six million dollars.

"I decided to write this book because I felt it was really time to say something - and I have a lot of 'somethings' to say something about," Goldberg told reporters.

The book will be titled, "The Book," will be published by Rob Weisbach books and will include Goldberg's affair with actor Ted Danson, and other aspects of her life, including a child she had.

Russian Upper House Rejects Law on WW2 Artworks

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia's Upper House of Parliament on Wednesday rejected a draft law restricting the return of valuables seized from the Nazis during World War Two, saying it would damage international relations.

"The law is rejected by the federation council once and for all," Interfax News Agency quoted Deputy Culture Minister Mikhail Shvydkoi as saying.

His statement is sure to be music to the ears of many Germans, whose leaders have lobbied hard for the artworks to be returned and expressed dismay when the draft was passed by Russia's Lower House of Parliament on July 7.

Bonn had said Chancellor

Helmut Kohl would take it up with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, whose signature is required for any draft to become law.

The German Ambassador to Moscow Ernst-Joerg Von Staudnitz said the chamber had acted reasonably, opening the way for disagreements to be resolved.

"I have always said that one must hope for a positive result," he told Echo Moskvy radio, adding that he hoped that the work of a Russian-German commission, practically suspended since 1994, would be resumed.

Shvydkoi said the position of the ministry and the government as a whole was that claims should be resolved in each case through dialogue.

"In any situation the discussion can only be about the equal exchange of foreign cultural treasures in Russia with Russian treasures abroad, according to their value. No sales, no gratuitous handovers," Interfax quoted him as saying.

The Soviet Union had handed over around two million works of art in the 1950's 1960's and even as late as 1990 and got only a handful of works in return.

Addressing the chamber during the stormy debate on the draft, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Krylov said the law ran counter to the tendency towards closer international integration, Interfax said.

It said the deputies had rejected it because its whole concept contradicted international and Russian law.

"The draft law is effectively a law nationalizing all the cultural treasures transferred to the Soviet Union as a result of World War Two," Interfax said, quoting Shvydkoi.

Summer Art Exhibitions

There are now three kinds of artworks on show in Europe: treasures in place (Leonardo's "Mona Lisa" rendered bulletproof

crisis movement to oppose the havoc he saw the Industrial Revolution wreaking upon England. More than 500 objects prove that there was much more to the man

than mere handmade furniture. Morris may or may not have been antimodern, but Edouard Manet was right in the thick of it when painting started to go flatter and funny-looking (that is, when modernism began) circa 1865.



in the Louvre in Paris), blockbuster traveling exhibitions salted with masterpieces, and contemporary art challenging everything you hold dear.

Among the most interesting current exhibitions is the William Morris retrospective at London's Victoria and Albert Museum. Morris, a 19th-century designer-craftsman, founded the arts-and-

crafts movement to oppose the havoc he saw the Industrial Revolution wreaking upon England. More than 500 objects prove that there was much more to the man

than mere handmade furniture. Morris may or may not have been antimodern, but Edouard Manet was right in the thick of it when painting started to go flatter and funny-looking (that is, when modernism began) circa 1865.

The astutely chosen Manet show (through Nov. 11) at the Fondation Pierre Gianadda in Martigny, Switzerland, just 40

kilometers outside Lausanne, gathers 100 paintings, pastels and watercolors, some of which haven't been seen in Europe this century. One of Manet's impres-

'The Millinery Shop' by Edgar Degas is on display at the exhibition titled Degas: Beyond Impressionism at the National Gallery in London.

Full Implementation of Tajik Agreements Demonstrates Tajik Good Will

BY: MOJGAN TAVASSOLI

A two-week dialogue of the fifth term of peace negotiations between the Tajik government and the opposition has born fruit and led to signing of an agreement that prolonged the cease-fire in that beleaguered country. Based on this accord, the cease-fire in Tajikistan has been extended until December 31 this year.

The negotiations were resumed on July 8 at Ashkhabad, the capital of Tajikistan, after a 4 month break due to ongoing hostility. This period of negotiation was chaired by the United Nations representative Dietrich Merrem with the presence of representatives from Iran, Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and several other Central Asian nations.

The most disputed item in the agenda was the exchange of prisoners between the warring parties and the method of formation of council of a coalition government in Tajikistan where the opposing factions as well as those in power would participate. It is hoped that in the coming days an agreement for exchange of prisoners will be signed.

Since 1994, four rounds of official negotiations have been conducted in Moscow, Tehran, Islamabad and Almaty, of which the fourth round was the most fruitful. Of course we continue to witness repeated breaches of cease-fire and the continuation of struggles between the warring factions in that country, but as far as the region is concerned, it would have been far more logical for the parties to show more flexibility and understanding.

The fifth session of dialogue in Tajikistan was completely different from previous terms due to change of the UN representative in Tajik affairs and the re-election of Boris Yeltsin who, during his campaign, chanted the slogan of peace for the troubled republics and who must keep true to his words to authenticate his claim. Russia moves alongside Iran for stabilization and peace in Tajikistan and has always played a leading role in that direction, and obviously by applying pressure on the warring parties in Tajikistan, Moscow has the ability to solve the differences between the Tajik government and the opposition. In other words in the absence of Russia, no security can be achieved in the region. Perhaps it is for this reason that Russia has placed the question of her relations with the republics on top of her agenda. Due to reasons such as existence of a Russian minority in Tajikistan who need Russian protection, and in order to prove her power in the regional level and because of Russia's fear of Tajikistan's neighbor Afghanistan, Russia has special interest in that country and always looks at the Tajik borders with Afghanistan as her own. Meanwhile what is apparent from this dialogue is that a window for peace has been opened which will end ethnic bloodshed in Tajikistan and pave the ground for a national reconciliation and compromise. Motivated by these incentives, Russia was more active in the peace negotiations and we observed repeated meetings between Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov with Haji Akbar Turajonzoda, the acting leader of Tajikistan's Islamic Movement.

The parties in the peace process must be more active and should be aware that after the end of cold war in 1990, the international structure of the globe has undergone fundamental changes and that Tajikistan should now move towards economic growth and attainment of modern technology which is the key to her security. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the warring factions to have a more realistic approach to their problems and it would benefit them both if they would leave off ethnic and tribal differences and think of stabilization of the nation. Because stabilization in the individual republics will contribute to the overall stabilization of the region at a time that western nations are watching covetously for a loophole to penetrate the region. The Tajik government and its opposition should observe the following points in order to achieve a lasting peace:

- Be aware that division of lands cannot end armed conflicts.

- Reduce their individual and group desires and concentrate on the nation's interest as a whole and be aware that from the date of their independence the Tajik people have gained nothing but poverty and unrest due to ethnic struggles.

- Enhance their capacity for assuming responsibility. Because after the independence, the government and the opposition have spent a lot of money on fighting each other when that money could have been better employed for the development of the nation.

In conclusion it must be noted that the parties to the cease-fire should act with good will and put more trust in each other's promises. By doing so not only they will stabilize the country but they will also show their people and other nations that they are sincere in their words.

Rural Poor Excluded From China's Socialist Market Economy

SHIXIAN, CHINA (AFP) - Tian Fenghui curses the arid mountains of the northern Ningxia autonomous region where his ancestors settled and dreams of being able to move his family away from this arid hell where water is as precious as gold.

Tian, born 50 years ago in the Muslim village of Shixian lost in the mountains of the moon in southern Ningxia, has known only misery, like millions of those left out of China's socialist market economy.

"We were born here, like our parents and grandparents, but we do not love this land which has given us only worries," said Tian. "Socialism is probably a good thing, but we've never really been happy."

Like Tian, a quarter of the 5.12 million inhabitants of the small autonomous region of Ningxia are trying to survive on less than \$60 annually.

Members of the Hui Muslim minority, they were driven by the Han Chinese over the centuries to the more arid southern regions of the province.

Sixty families, numbering about 300 people, live in Shixian, located about 35 kilometers (20 miles) south of Haiyuan prefecture. The low-roofed houses covered in yellow earth all have networks of drain pipes on their roofs to capture any precious rain.

Turkish Military Warns It Is There to Protect Secularism

ANKARA, TURKEY (AP) - The military, breaking its silence over the coming to power of an Islamic-inspired government, on Thursday warned it still considered itself protector of the country's secular tradition.

"Be reassured that the hands reaching out against the independence of the secular Democratic Turkish Republic, will find the Turkish nation and the Turkish armed forces standing against them," air force commander Gen. Ahmet Corekci said, the semi-official Anadolu agency reported.

It was the first official military comment on the new coalition government, led by the Islamic-inspired Welfare Party, since parliament approved it two weeks ago.

Although the Welfare Party of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan cannot bring about its anti-secular, pro-Islamic policies in a coalition with the center-right True Path Party of former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, it makes no secret of its intentions to create an Islamic regime when it comes to power alone.

"Our swords will always be sharp, and our jets in the skies will be as tearing as the paws of a falcon" against anti-secularist and separatist threats, Corekci said.

He was speaking at a military ceremony here honoring generals with distinguished service medals earned during the battle against Kurdish rebels fighting for autonomy.

Erbakan, speaking at his Welfare group meeting at parliament Thursday said his coalition government would serve until the year 2000, in defiance of predictions that early elections would take place next year.

In 1980, the military took over power partly spurred by a Welfare campaign for an Islamic regime.

The Han who have moved into the more hospitable yellow river valley to the north, speak of the Hui Muslims with such contempt that they lock their wells, but leave their doors open because they have nothing worth stealing.

Water is an especially precious commodity after four years of drought. The nearest source is 10 kilometers (six miles) away. It costs 18 yuan (about \$2) to travel on one of the two village tractors to fill a water tank big enough to supply a family of five for 15 days.

"We have to ration water for drinking and cooking, and the poorest families don't wash until it rains," said a woman of about 40, surrounded by a cluster of ragged children.

"Some children are not bathed for a year and their clothes are often worn out without ever having been washed," added the woman, her skin soiled by yellow earth and her hair gray from malnutrition.

nutrition.

The lack of water also affects the food supply. The wheat, pea and rapeseed harvests have been practically non-existent for four years.

On the mountain sides, where the smallest bits of flat land are cultivated, the wheat has not sprouted. In the plain below, the harvest is about to begin.

To survive, children as young as seven travel dozens of kilometers (miles) on foot to beg for food in the towns. The men head to the valley in the hope of finding work at harvest time. They are paid \$2 a day for a harvested MU (0.07 hectares).

But judging by the number of peasants waiting for work in the urban areas, the supply exceeds demand. Many take their chances as far afield as the northwestern autonomous region of Xinjiang.

Hope for the hundreds of thousands of poor, who see the gap between them and the rich coastal

provinces gradually widening each year, could come from "project 1236," a plan to move a million people in six years from southern Ningxia to the more hospitable central region of Hong-sipu, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the Yellow River.

The inhabitants of Shixian have all heard talk of the project on the village's only television set at a nearby public works site.

But the village chief, Ma Fengde, has said that only a third of Shixian's population can move to the plains. "Everyone wants to leave and it is going to be hard to choose," he said.

"If we are asked to go north, no one would refuse, that's for sure," said Tian. "When I see the streets of Beijing, Shanghai or Guangzhou on television, I feel a pang of anguish and I tell myself that if I stay here, there will no longer be any hope for my family."

Anti-Government Protesters Hold Up a Wall of Banners

JAKARTA, INDONESIA (AP) - About 1,000 supporters of deposed opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri stood along a Jakarta street Thursday holding banners that stretched 1 kilometer (a half-mile) in an anti-government protest.

Passers-by were encouraged to write comments on the banners to protest the government-engineered ouster of Megawati as head of her Indonesian Democratic Party last month.

"Megawati, or nothing at all," shouted a young woman who got out of her car and scribbled some words on a banner before driving away.

The protesters, who included many students, then marched to the party headquarters where hundreds of Megawati loyalists are holed up.

They have refused to vacate the premises for Suryadi, Megawati's government-approved successor, who was elected by a rebel Congress attended by military and government officials.

On Thursday, hundreds of anti-riot police accompanying the protesters confiscated a 200-meter (660-feet) banner. The situation became tense as the young protesters screamed at the soldiers, but did not result in violence.

It was the second such banner protest in one week.

Last Thursday, about 3,000 people marched through central Jakarta, carrying another huge banner that said "we support Megawati" and contained thousands of signatures.

Such protests are unusual in Indonesia where the 30-year, iron-hand rule of President Suharto has stifled all opposition political activity.

Only three political parties are allowed, but the two opposition parties depend upon the government's good will. Their election candidates are vetted by intelligence agencies and speaking against the government results in a fate that Megawati has suffered.

She was ousted for making increasing calls for political reform. The government also was apparently threatened by her growing popularity, largely due to her name, she is the daughter of Indonesia's founding President

Sukarno, who was forced to hand over power to Suharto in 1966 following an abortive coup blamed on the communists. He died in house arrest in 1970 but is still admired by millions of Indonesians.

"We hope that longer banners will come in the coming days in support for democracy," Sutardjo Suryoguritmo, a lawmaker and Megawati loyalist said.

Sukowaluyo, another legislator, said "we now have to begin our struggle for democracy, truth and justice."

Meanwhile, there are fears that the army might move in to clear the Democratic Party headquarters of Megawati supporters.

Li. Gen. Syarwan Hamid, chief of the socio-political affairs of the armed forces, said Thursday as saying that the military will help Suryadi take office.

Megawati supporters have maintained that they would rather die fighting than vacate the build-

ing.

In a meeting of opposition supporters, speakers including Megawati's sister Sukmawati Sukarnoputri urged a boycott of next year's general elections.

"We would not take part ... before all laws on elections and political parties that run against the constitution are lifted," said Yulius Usman, a chairman of the newly set up and unrecognized Indonesian Democratic Union.

Usman is one of activists whose street protests in 1966 helped topple Sukarno and put Suharto in power.

Also Thursday, armed forces commander Gen. Feisal Tanjung, was quoted by the official Antara

news agency as likening the recent protests to the Communist Movement of 1965. He threatened stern military action against any disruption of public order.

Israel's Campaign to Bring Iranian Jews to Israel

JERUSALEM (AFP) - An Israeli deputy has launched a campaign to help the estimated 25,000 Iranian-Jews emigrate to Israel, claiming their lives are in danger to the Islamic Republic.

Naomi Blumenthal, a Likud deputy and president of Parliament's Immigration Committee, has seized on the killing of an elderly Jew in Tehran three weeks ago to relaunch an old debate on the fate of the Jewish Community in Iran.

The Commission she heads has urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to do everything possible to help Iranian Jews emigrate to Israel, calling for them to be given the "Jews in danger" status, already accorded to Syrians and Yemenis, entitling them to special privileges on arrival in Israel.

"If the government lets Iranian Jews know that from the moment they arrive in Israel they will receive the same privileged treatment as Syrian and Yemeni Jews, then that will encourage them to come," said Blumenthal.

The daily Yediot Aharonot first put the issue back in the pub-

lic spotlight two weeks ago by publishing the story of 61-year-old Izozla Lameh, who was hanged in his Tehran shop.

The paper said the Iranian authorities had prevented Lameh's family in Tehran from reclaiming the body for burial for a week, drawing howls of outrage from Blumenthal's Committee which in turn laid the blame for the shopkeeper's death at the door of the Iranian authorities.

The Committee concluded that Lameh had been killed for "spying on behalf of the Zionist enemy."

But Israeli experts on Iranian affairs were quick to pour cold water on this speculation, insisting there was no political or religious motive behind Lameh's killing.

"Lameh was quite simply murdered. It is a prosaic example of daily criminality," Amir Menashe, in charge of Persian Broadcasts for Israeli Public Radio, told AFP.

Lameh came to Israel seven months ago to visit his brothers and sisters living in the Jewish state, but turned down pleas from

See page 13

Markets Watch for Japan Rate Clues in Crop of Indicators

TOKYO (AFP) - Speculation over the timing of an anticipated rise in Japanese interest rates will likely be fueled by a crop of indicators on the health of the economy to be released this week, analysts said.

Center stage will be the Bank of Japan's quarterly economic review due out Tuesday.

Its last review, released in early May, pointed to the likelihood that the positive effects of public sector spending on economic growth would fade towards the end of the year.

By that time, it anticipated private sector spending would be firm enough to take over as the engine for growth.

"If you read between the lines, you get a clear idea of what it (the Bank of Japan) thinks is important," Merrill Lynch economist Mike Hartnett told AFX-Asia, an AFP-affiliated financial news wire.

"I would be surprised if it (the quarterly review) mentions monetary policy, but it will highlight private sector capital expenditure and the importance of the private sector taking over from public sector to give the economy growth through the second half of the year," Hartnett said, adding:

"The figures already indicate this is taking place. There's not much doubt of that."

Hartnett said the Bank of Japan wants its next "tankan" survey of business confidence, due to be released in September, "to indicate the solidity of the recovery before tightening rates."

The Bank of Japan cut its offi-

cial discount rate to a record low 0.5 percent last September, and there has been considerable speculation of late about when it will be lifted.

In its recent assessments, the Bank of Japan has maintained a cautious stance, mainly to assuage fears in financial markets of an imminent rate hike, economists said.

MIMS international economist Satoshi Shimamoto told AFX-Asia that since Bank of Japan governor Yasuo Matsuura's news conference in mid-May "the emphasis has been on the weak side of the economy, to avoid talk of rate hikes."

Shimamoto said that after the June tankan, the Bank of Japan's line was that "small- to medium-sized companies and non-manufacturers were improving, but it pointed later to the weak semiconductor industry."

"So I'm waiting to see if they highlight (semiconductors) again. Overall, it will say the economy is growing at a moderate pace, but the issue will be the shift of growth to the private sector from the public sector, especially the capital spending side."

Other data due out during the week includes the May leading index, which measures how the economy is expected to do in the coming months.

The leading index is expected to rise from 55.6 points in April to 66.7, putting it above the boom-bust line of 50 for the second consecutive month. The coincident index, or how the economy is doing now, is seen rising from 25.0 to 30.0.

BCCI-Linked Bank Set to Release Five-Year Results

ABU DHABI (AFP) - A key United Arab Emirates (UAE) bank that had been closely linked to the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International is set to release its results for the first time in five years and bankers expected it to announce high profits. Bankers and stockbrokers confirmed a report Saturday by the economic weekly Al-Eqtisadi that the Union National Bank (UNB) would issue its 1995 balance sheet in the next few weeks and it would include profits for five years.

"According to my information, UNB has prepared its balance sheet and its publication is now a matter of time," a bank manager said. "It includes large profits for the past five years, mainly from operations and interest."

Al-Eqtisadi said the decision to release the balance sheet came after liquidators of BCCI announced the problem was nearly over and they were about to start compensating hundreds of thou-

sands of BCCI creditors worldwide.

BCCI controlled 40 percent of UNB, which was previously called the Bank of Credit and Commerce Emirates. It changed its name two years after BCCI was shut worldwide in July 1991 for allegations of massive fraud.

UNB has not issued results since that year as it awaited the settlement of the BCCI problem and its 40 percent stake, which has been acquired by the state-run Abu Dhabi investment authority.

"UNB performed well during these years and you can see this from the steady increase in the price of its share," a UAE stockbroker told AFP.

UNB share price dove to a record low of 88 dirhams (\$23.9) just after the closure of BCCI before it recovered to more than 150 dirhams (\$40.87) in the following year. It continued its rise to reach 275 dirhams (\$74.9) on Saturday, according to dealers.

Deputies Pass Outline Law on Single Currency

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The Belgian parliament on Saturday approved by 81 votes an outline budgetary law which aims to establish conditions to allow the country to enter the single European currency in 1999.

The text put forward by Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene's government allows the government to legislate on budgetary matters by royal decrees until July 31, 1997, in order to bring the

Belgian budgetary deficit (4.5 percent in 1995) below the maximum threshold of three percent as laid down by the Maastricht Treaty.

Selection of the first EU member states authorized to adopt the Euro from 1999 will take place in the first months of 1998.

Dehaene set down as a priority his country's membership of the single currency.

Indian Industry, Stock Markets Expect Pro-Growth Budget

BOMBAY (AFP) - Industrial and stock market leaders in India's business capital are anticipating a pro-growth and pro-reform federal budget Monday from the country's new center-left coalition government.

Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram, an advocate of liberalization begun five years ago by the previous Congress (I) Party administration, is to unveil the fiscal 1996-97 budget in parliament in New Delhi on Monday.

The budget for the fiscal year which began on April 1 is expected to reveal the economic agenda of the 13-party United Front Coalition government of Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, who took office on June 1.

Chidambaram was commerce minister in the previous government and is an ardent supporter of the reforms which saved India from bankruptcy in 1991 and resulted in economic growth of seven percent in fiscal 1995-96.

Analyst Devesh Kumar of the foreign stockbroker W.I. Carr said the finance minister's biggest challenge would be accommodating the conflicting demands of the coalition members, who range from free traders to communists.

"The finance minister will have to walk a tightrope between pro-market reforms and populist rhetoric," he said.

Chidambaram will attempt to "continue the economic reforms without putting the government at stake, especially since the various parties in the government have opposing stands on crucial economic issues," he said.

Kumar said he expected the government to slash import tariffs by between 10 percent and 40 percent.

"But the various populist subsidies will not be cut and the fiscal deficit will remain around six percent of gross domestic product



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against the targeted five percent," he said.

In its pre-budget economic survey on Friday, the finance ministry warned that the robust economic growth could be undermined if the fiscal deficit was not brought under control, infrastructure improved and the reforms accelerated.

Industrialist Shekhar Bajaj said transparent policies should be put in place to attract greater foreign investment into developing and modernizing India's creaking infrastructure.

"The budget should also try and reduce wasteful government expenditure, bring down corporate and individual taxes and vigorously pursue the economic reforms," he said.

Nityakrishna Goyal, chief of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations, said the budget should be pro-exports.

"Tax holidays and rebates for exporters should continue or else our exports will be uncompetitive," he said. "Exporters are staying afloat only because of these, otherwise rising domestic costs make our exports uncompetitive."

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said it expected the

budget to continue in the general direction of the free-market economic reforms.

"We expect New Delhi to set aside more funds for the social sectors and industrial infrastructure," it said, "as well as promoting domestic savings and opening up of the state-controlled insurance sector."

Revenue-increasing measures could include "simplification and widening of the tax net," the CII said.

Keshub Mahindra, chairman of the utility vehicle maker Mahindra and Mahindra, said he expected the budget to step up the pace of reforms.

"There is now a political consensus on reforms, growth and disinvestment of state-owned companies," he said.

"With the government striving for 12 percent yearly industrial growth, industry looks forward not only to a more rapid development of infrastructure but also an easing of liquidity and lower interest rates," he added.

Mahindra said it might be politically difficult for the government to scrap subsidies, "but a move ought to be made to gradually bring about reductions."

New Challenge for ASEAN as Export Momentum Flags

JAKARTA (AFP) - ASEAN economies face the challenge of maintaining their edge in exports, the engine of their rapid growth, as domestic constraints increase and competition from Asian rivals heats up.

Economists say the first signs of a slowdown from years of fast export growth are now visible and warn that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) cannot dismiss it as a mere blip.

The Jakarta-based ASEAN secretariat has projected collective export growth for six of the seven ASEAN members to slow a shade from 20 percent in 1995 to a still healthy 16 percent in 1996 at 350 billion U.S. dollars.

But the forecast - which excludes ASEAN's newest member, Vietnam - did not factor in a steep fall in external electronics demand hurting the group's exports.

Electronics is a key item in the export basket of Singapore, the region's biggest trading nation, as well as neighboring Malaysia and Thailand.

ASEAN, which on Sunday was due to end an annual ministerial meeting in Jakarta, groups the three countries with oil-rich Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam which joined the organization only last year.

As a bloc, ASEAN is the fourth largest trader after the United States, Japan and the European Union, with two-way trade this year estimated at \$700 billion.

Indonesian economist Raja Silalahi said that, besides the slowdown in the volatile electronics market, infrastructure constraints and other bottlenecks were beginning to affect ASEAN's competitiveness in trade.

He also cited increasing competition from lower-cost locations elsewhere in Asia, including Burma, which is aspiring to join ASEAN. Vietnam, too, is posing competition to the more mature ASEAN economies, he said.

"The cost of labor there is lower, the cost of capital also, and other things like land are cheaper," he said.

"They take a share of the market and reduce our (ASEAN) exports," said Silalahi. "We will face problems competing in the market."

Investment House I.P. Morgan warned in a recent report: "It is the rise of nearby rivals and its own infrastructure and labor-force bottlenecks that threaten ASEAN's high export growth in the future."

Economists said ASEAN members should move to deal

with the bottlenecks and arrest the export slowdown before they blunt the group's competitive edge.

"ASEAN should be concerned. It may reflect some factors like under-investment in infrastructure," said Robert Tay, an economist with the ASEAN secretariat.

"For a number of years, ASEAN exports have grown in a consistently higher plane compared to OECD (Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development) economies," he said.

"This downturn or (eventual) convergence to the world average may be expected over a period of time."

Projected exports for the year, without taking into account the electronics slowdown, are impressive.

Brunei's exports are projected by the secretariat to rise to \$2.7 billion from \$2.5 billion last year, Indonesia's from \$45.3 billion to \$51.9 billion and Malaysia's from \$71.5 billion to \$86.2 billion.

The Philippines' exports are expected to rise from \$16.6 billion to \$19.8 billion, Singapore's from \$111.9 billion to \$130.9 billion and Thailand's from \$56.2 billion to \$57.9 billion.

Current account deficits were projected by the ASEAN secretariat to decelerate - from \$1.4 billion in 1995 to \$2 billion in 1996,

Economic Digest

HANOI - State-owned Vietnam Electricity Corp. has tentatively agreed to buy power from two planned hydroelectric plants in Laos, the official Vietnam News said.

The Vietnamese company signed a memorandum of understanding with the Laotian committee for energy and electrical power agreeing to purchase 1.5 billion to 2 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year, the English-language newspaper said, citing an unidentified senior official at electricity Vietnam.

The power will come from Laos' planned Se Kong 4 and Se Kong 5 power plants, scheduled for completion by the year 2000, the report said. The two sides will cooperate in building the necessary transmission lines, it said.

COLOMBO - A nationwide power cut in force since March is to be relaxed after monsoon rains began filling up hydroelectric reservoirs, officials said.

The current five-and-a-half-hour power cut will be reduced by an hour as of Wednesday, said the power and energy ministry in a statement.

But the ban on the use of air conditioners and neon signboards will continue, the officials said.

With production expected to fall considerably due to the power crunch, analysts have reduced Sri Lanka's economic growth forecasts to about 4 percent of the gross domestic product this year from 5.5 percent in 1995.

Hydroelectric power accounts for 84 percent of the country's electricity generation. The power cuts were introduced to meet the power crunch.

The government blames its predecessor regime for not starting new power projects to keep pace with the 10 percent annual increase in demand.

ISLAMABAD - Projected growth and incentive programs could make tourism one of the largest foreign exchange earning industries in Pakistan in the next three years, a government advisor said.

A range of proposed joint venture tourism-related projects could attract about \$3.5 billion by 1999, said Awaiz Jayawandana, a foreign investment consultant working for the government.

"Multinational companies are already in the process of surveying opportunities for setting up various mega projects," Bangash said during a government briefing on the tourist industry.

Investors from France, Switzerland, the United States, Hong Kong and Japan have expressed interest in building hotels, amusement parks and other recreation facilities in Pakistan, he said.

PERTH - Kingstream Resources NL's joint venture partner in the proposed midwest iron and steel project, Taiwan's An Feng Steel Co. Inc., has contributed \$6.7 million (8.4 million Australian dollars) to the venture's bank account.

Kingstream announced the funds would cover all joint venture operating costs until the debt and equity finance for the planned \$800 million (1 billion Australian dollars) steel mill near Geraldton in western Australia, was raised.

An Feng can take up to a 70 percent stake in the project, expected to produce 2.4 million tons of high-quality carbon steel a year.

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